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Telegrams.

London, April 7, 9.30 p.m.

The Norddeutscher Lloyd vessel, Prinzess Irene, which went ashore on Fire Island, threatens to become a total wreck.

The passengers have been removed.

London, April 7, 9.30 p.m.

The severe weather which is prevailing in England now is primarily the cause of many deaths.

Bombay, April 8, 7.45 a.m.

The North German Lloyd steamer, Prinzess Irene, is ashore on Fire Island.

There are a thousand passengers on board.

The situation is serious.

Bombay, April 8, 7.45 a.m.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has announced in the House of Commons that the question of perpetual leases in Japan will be the subject of a separate agreement.

There is considerable speculation regarding the object of the inclusion in the Japanese tariff treaty of a schedule enumerating certain articles, continuing to be admitted into free England, and provision being made enabling both Governments to modify the schedules after the lapse of a year.

This is regarded by Tariff Reformers as indicating the possibility of Tariff Reform in the near future and a threat of retaliation against Japanese unless substantial reductions are made in the new tariff.

Peking, April 7.

All the Chinese Ministers abroad have telegraphed to the Grand Council stating that the foreign press is criticising the weak attitude taken up by China towards Russia.

The opinion of the press is that China cannot be considered a country at all.

The Chinese Ministers urge upon the Grand Councillors the necessity of an immediate reorganisation of the army and navy in order to save the country.

Peking, April 7th.

The Grand Councillors have requested the Board of the Interior to issue a proclamation prohibiting the native press from publishing articles about the dispute with Russia.

Peking, April 7.

A telegram from Harbin has reached Peking stating that the Russian and Chinese soldiers have already had several conflicts.

Many were wounded on both sides.

Peking, April 7.

Viceroy Hsi Liang, of the Three Eastern Provinces, has telegraphed to Peking asking the Throne to grant him an audience, as he has to report on the finances of the province and also on the Russo-Sino dispute.

Peking, April 7.

The President of the Board of Foreign Affairs has requested the Russian Minister in Peking to withdraw the Russian troops in Mongolia, as all the questions in dispute have been settled.

The Minister has replied that the troops cannot be withdrawn until orders to this effect have been issued from St. Petersburg.

The situation in the Three Eastern Provinces is becoming critical on account of the presence of the troops.

Peking, April 7.

The Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg has telegraphed to Peking stating that the Russia Government has no intention of withdrawing the troops from Manchuria and Mongolia, but on the other hand they are continuing to send stores and ammunition.

London, April 7, 9.30 p.m.

The latest reports state that there are continuous attempts being made to wreck trains in Bengal.

Peking, April 7.

The Viceroy of Sze-chwan has requested Prince Ching to tender his resignation on his behalf and has recommended the Governor of Soochow to take his place.

Telegrams.

Peking, April 7.

Grand Councillors have telegraphed to the Governor of Soochow to proceed to Peking without delay.

Peking, April 7.

The Throne intends to appoint Prince Tsai as plenipotentiary to the Hague Conference.

London, April 7, 9.30 p.m.

The murder is reported of the Noel Williamson party on the border of Assam.

London, April 7, 9.30 p.m.

Mr. John Henniker Heaton, M.P., the great Post Office reformer, is lying seriously ill.

Bombay, April 7, 2.20 p.m.

The newspapers given qualified reception to the Japanese concessions.

The Free Trade journals generally regard them as satisfactory. The "Standard" and the "Daily Express" describe the concessions as farcical.

The "Times" regards them as fairly satisfactory and says that the disappearance of conventions is the outward sign of Japan's acquisition of complete commercial autonomy and heartily congratulates our Japanese friends on their legitimate satisfaction in national pride.

Peking, April 7.

Both Prince Tsai and H. E. Na Tung have refused to accept the vice-presidentship of the New Cabinet.

Peking, April 7.

The Prince Regent had a conference yesterday with the President of the Board of Finance and the President of the Board of Communications as to the raising of a foreign loan.

Peking, April 7.

The President of the Board of Communications has memorialised the Throne urging the government to remove the taxes on provisions to be consigned to the famine stricken areas of Kansu and Anhwei.

An Imperial Decree has been issued that this be considered.

Peking, April 7.

H.E. Na Tung has strongly recommended the reinstatement of Liang Tun Yen, former president of the Board of Foreign Affairs.

Peking, April 7.

H.E. Liu Yuk Lin, the Chinese Minister at the Court of St. James, and H.E. Liu Si Fan, the Chinese Minister in Paris, have telegraphed to Peking respectively stating that a conference has been held in Paris by the powers as to the division of China.

They also stated in their telegrams that the powers were strongly in favour of the scheme, with the exception of the United States.

On receipt of the telegrams, the Grand Councillors were greatly alarmed.

Peking, April 9.

The Prince Regent wept bitterly on receipt of the telegrams from H. E. Liu Yuk Lin, the Chinese Minister at the Court of St. James, and H. E. Liu Sik-fan, Chinese Minister in Paris, as to the division of China.

Afterwards the Prince Regent summoned the Grand Councillors to hold a conference in the Palace.

Peking, April 9.

It is reported that Italy and Austria-Hungary are not in favour of the division of China.

Peking, April 9.

The President of the Board of Foreign Affairs called on the American Minister in Peking yesterday, and stayed for a long time.

Peking, april 9.

The four countries advancing the foreign loan have insisted on China engaging a foreign financial advisor. The President of the Board of Communications is considering the matter.

Peking, April 9.

The Russian Minister at Peking has notified the Board of Foreign Affairs that the Russian troops stationed at Ili have been withdrawn.

A DASTARDLY CRIME.

TARTAR GENERAL FU CHI ASSASSINATED.

SENSATIONAL ENDING TO CANTON AVIATION MEETING.

[The "Telegraph" Correspondent.]

Canton, April 9, 10.20 a.m.

A dastardly crime brought the aviation meeting of Mr. Van den Born to a sensational ending yesterday.

The acting Tartar General, His Excellency Fu Chi, was foully murdered in front of the Provincial Assembly buildings.

The murdered official was on his way back to his Yamen after seeing Mr. Van den Born fly. He was surrounded by guards and was in his sedan chair. A dense crowd had gathered in the vicinity of the Provincial Assembly buildings, and just as the chair of the mandarin came abreast of the main door of the building shots suddenly rang out. The crash of breaking glass followed—that of the sedan chair—and the mandarin was seen to fall forward in his seat. The chair-bearers dropped their burden immediately and fled, their example being followed by the guards, who displayed great cowardice.

A scene of the greatest confusion followed, almost a panic being caused among the dense crowd. One of the guards, however, and some policemen gave chase to the fugitive and he was captured in Sinheung Street.

When picked up the unfortunate Fu Chi was found with two bullet wounds in his head and one in the throat. He still lived and, attended by doctors, was carried to his yamen, where he shortly afterwards died.

At his preliminary examination the assassin said his name was Wan San Tsoi, a native of Shuntak, who has just returned from Singapore.

"I killed the General," he said, "on behalf of my 400,000,000 Chinese brothers. I was not instructed in any way by any body."

The son of the murdered man was in the buildings of the Provincial Assembly when the crime was committed, and at once telephoned to his father's Yamen and to the Viceroy. The latter at once ordered the Brigadier General, the Police Taotai and the Chunghip, Kwonghip, Nanhai, and Punyu magistrates to the scene to take such steps as might appear necessary.

His Excellency also reported the assassination by telegraph to Peking the same evening.

The murder was committed on behalf of the anti-Manchu party, by whom the prisoner meant his Chinese brothers.

London, April 8, 2.10 p.m.

Mr Winston Churchill, in a speech at London, said that a remarkable vindication of the Free Trade policy of Great Britain was the brilliant commercial treaty which Sir Edward Grey had negotiated with Japan.

In this, for the first time, the great free-market of Great Britain was formally recognised by one of the great Powers as a boon greater than that offered by the tariff-controlled markets of any other nation.

London, April 10, 7.20 a.m.

Board of Trade returns for the month show a very satisfactory increase in trade.

Imports have increased by £434,075, and the exports by £6,472,354.

The increase is shown mainly in iron and steel manufactures, ships, and cotton manufactures.

Peking, April 9.

The President of the Army Board strongly criticised the weak attitude maintained by the Board of Foreign Affairs in the settlement of the disputes with Russia.

Prince Ching and H.E. Na Tung had a heated argument with the President.

Peking, April 9.

The Empress Dowager of China will hold a grand reception in honour of the wives of the foreign ministers in Peking.

Telegrams

London, April 8.

A Paris message states that after a debate on its foreign policy the Senate passed a vote of confidence in the Government by 253 votes to 20.

London, April 8.

There is continued anxiety regarding the situation in Morocco. According to the last advices a coalition of rebellious tribesmen were surrounding Fez.

Bombay, April 8, 2.10 p.m.

A New York message states that 1,720 passengers of the s.s. Prinzess Irene were removed in surf boats and lifeboats.

The s.s. Prinzess Irene is still fast.

London, April 10, 7.20 a.m.

New York advices state that lighters have been despatched to the wreck of the N.D.L. s.s. Prinzess Irene.

The liner is still aground, but the lighters are succeeding in taking off the cargo.

Tokio, April 10.

The newly-appointed Japanese Commercial Commissioner to Hongkong left Yokohama to-day.

He is Mr. Awoki, and received his appointment some time ago. He sails on the Tamba Maru.

Tokio, April 10.

The naval programme for this year is to be carried out rapidly.

The keels of a Dreadnought, and three first class cruisers—all displacing more than 20,000 tons—have been laid down at the Kur Nav Dock.

Another cruiser of equal size is to be built at Yokosuka before the end of the year.

Peking, April 9.

The Chinese Minister at Tokio has left for Peking.

London, April 10, 7.20 a.m.

The Mexican House of Deputies have voted four million dollars gold to be used in the pacification of the country.

The money will be devoted to the purchase of military equipment.

Peking, April 9.

Viceroy Li, of Yunnan, has memorialized the Throne to open up some places in Yunnan, so as to facilitate the frontier disputes.

The Grand Councillors are not in favour of the scheme.

Peking, April 9.

The Russian Government is demanding certain treaty rights in the Three Eastern Provinces and Mongolia. Should the demands be refused, trouble may be anticipated.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of a Sunday contemporary thus pithily sums up the dispute between Russia and China:—"You have given us words in lieu of our treaty rights, and we now mean to have deeds, unmistakable deeds, and at once or else . . . ." That was the gist of the Russian message. The bland Chinaman retorted sweetly: "We have always unreservedly acknowleged your rightful claims, and we hereby acknowledge them anew." And, oddly enough, Russia, professing her faith in China's good dispositions, declared herself satisfied. Why is the Tsar's Government contented with so little? Europe is no longer uninterested in China's destinies, as it was twenty years ago. To-day every one of the Great Powers wants to have a finger in the pie, but none of them wishes to pull down the first stone of the Chinese fabric. For intermeddling of that kind there is a pat precedent created by Russia herself. When Japan and China concluded the Shimonoseki Treaty, three European States stepped in, cried halt, and upset all the arrangements made by the two Powers. An unpleasant surprise of the same kind would be in store for the Tsardom to-day as soon as its foot was well down on China's neck. Why, then, pull the chestnuts out of the fire for—rivals? So Russia doffed the wolf's skin and took to bleating like a sheep, to the delight of the French and the disgust of the Berlin politicians.—"L. & C. Express."

Telegrams.

London, April 12, 7.30 a.m.

St. Petersburg telegrams report that the Minister of Commerce has submitted to the Cabinet a bill for the establishment at St. Petersburg of a company which will have for its object the promotion and development of closer relations with Japan.

Both Russians and Japanese will be among its members and its work will be on general as well as commercial lines.

London, April 11, 9.50 p.m.

At the scrutiny of the votes recorded at the Exeter election, when there was a majority of one for the Unionist, the Liberal candidate has accused the Judges of doing him an injustice.

London, April 11.

A message from St. Petersburg states that the Council of Empire has approved the Estimates for the Navy amounting to 110,000,000 roubles, which is 3,330,000 above the figure sanctioned by the Duma.

Bombay, April 11, 1.55 p.m.

It is reported from Perim that natives from the interior state that a force of 1,800 Turks has been annihilated by a stratagem.

Naderi was captured on the 30th ult., only fifteen escaping out of three regiments, who declare that the Turks now hold in the interior only Eltaig and Sanaa.

Tokio, April 9.

A tremendous fire has swept the Yoshiwara district, an area of two miles being burnt out.

No less that 5,000 houses have been destroyed and 500 lives are reported to have been lost.

Tokio, April 10.

A disastrous conflagration took place in Yoshiwara district, (the Wanchai of Tokio), yesterday at noon.

All the geisha dancing houses, tea shops, &c., were destroyed by the flames, which raged fiercely for four hours. The fire extended for some two miles.

Every fire brigade in Tokio, as well as many from Kohama, were present, while several companies of soldiers and police assisted.

The most strenuous efforts were made to combat the flames, but not until nine o'clock in the evening, nearly ten hours after the outbreak started, was the fire brought under control.

Seven thousand houses have been completely destroyed, the greater majority being the finest buildings in Tokio, while the general damage done is enormous, being estimated at no less than Yen 10,000,000.

Peking, April 9.

Prince Lun and the President of the Board of Finance have a very high opinion of the ability of Wong Chong Wei, in the German, French and English languages.

They have telegraphed for him in Berlin asking him to return to Peking to translate the constitutional reforms of different countries into Chinese.

Peking, April 11.

Viceroy Li, of Yunnan, has memorialized the Throne that the frontier dispute in Yunnan is becoming critical, and the situation can only be saved by the "strength of the whole nation."

Peking, April 11.

Viceroy Li, of Yunnan, has telegraphed to the Viceroy of Chili to let him have arms and ammunition in case of hostilities.

Peking, April 11.

Viceroy Li, of Yunnan, has telegraphed to Peking suggesting that the Pien-ma dispute should be submitted to the Hague conference for arbitration.

Peking, April 11.

In accordance with the wishes of foreigners, the Board of Foreign Affairs intends to suppress the formation of the territorial corps for national defence in China.

Peking, April 11.

Wu Wei Tak, Under Secretary of the Board of Foreign Affairs, said that no satisfactory results can be obtained through the arbitration of the Pien-ma dispute by the Hague Conference.

Telegrams.

Bombay, April 10, 1.40 p.m.

The "Daily Express' Hongkong" correspondent wires:—"There is a serious rising in Canton. It is stated the Tartar General, commanding the troops, has been murdered. Reinforcements are hastening."

The above message does not appear in "Reuter's Service to the Hongkong Daily Press," nor amongst the telegrams in the "Daily Press."

Under the caption of "News from London," The "Hongkong Daily Press" had the following paragraph to conclude their account of the assassination, written by their Canton correspondent:—"According to a message telegraphed back to Hongkong by Reuter, the Hongkong correspondent of the London (Daily Express) has cabled news of a serious rising at Canton."

"It is stated," says Reuter's message, "that the Tartar General commanding the troops has been murdered and that reinforcements are hastening to the scene." We do not know who the correspondent is, but he would seem to have "very exclusive information."

This message from Reuter does not seem to be published amongst the "Telegrams," under "Reuter's Service," or elsewhere in the "South China Morning Post."

Canton, April 10.

I have already telegraphed you all the particulars of the assassination of the Acting Tartar General Fu Chi. I am now able to give you further news of the outrage. Yesterday three men were arrested, one of them being the landlord of the assassin, and the others the persons who had recommended the assassin to the Canton-Kowloon Railway for employment.

At the trial held by the Pun U Magistrate, the prisoner made the

FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"My name is Wan Sang Choy, of Shun Tak district, and I am forty-two years old. When I was six years old, I was kidnapped into the district, but I managed to return to Canton at the age of ten. I have been in the service of one of the Canton Provincial examiners and also in the service of Colonel Chang Ki Kwong, of Formosa.

"Subsequently I went to Singapore and I met the leader of the revolutionists, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, and became a member of that party. Last year I returned to Hongkong by the s.s. Laisang and took up my quarters in one of the boarding houses. Afterwards some friends recommended me to the Canton-Kowloon Railway (Chinese section) as an employee. I frequently went to Hongkong, Macao and Samchun. My quarters were in Eastern Market Street, Canton. I am an orphan, a bachelor and have no brothers. My object in murdering the late Tartar General was to take revenge on behalf of my 400,000,000 compatriots. I have made up my mind to kill all the Manchus first and all the officials afterwards. I am glad that the attempt on the Tartar-General's life was attended with success."

DENOUNCES COWARDICE OF BODYGUARD.

In the course of the statements made by the prisoner, he criticised the uselessness and cowardice of the bannermen who served as bodyguards to the late Tartar General. He said that these men could not be depended upon, should there be an encounter with foreign troops. When questioned as to the number of his accomplices, prisoner said that these were numerous in every province.

The prisoner displayed great calmness and spoke clearly throughout the trial. When he was taken to the police station, he told the inspectors that none of his captors could prove to have been instrumental in arresting him, for as soon as he had done the "brave deed" (!), he surrendered himself to the police.

Telegrams.

PANIC STRICKEN SOLDIERS.

As soon as the news of the assassination of the Tartar General Fu Chi got about, the bannermen in the city became panic-stricken, hastily loaded their guns and came up to the city walls with cannons to meet emergencies.

THE FUNERAL

of the late Tartar General took place yesterday afternoon and was attended by the Viceroy and the military and civil officials. After the despatch of a telegram to Peking of the sad affair, H.E. the Viceroy telegraphed to the viceroys and governors of the various provinces news of the tragic occurrence and received sympathetic replies.

Native Opinion.

The editors-in of some of the native papers in leading articles on the murder express their inability to arrive at any feasible reason for it. They point out that the dead official was old and harmless, was of junior rank and had never oppressed the people, while if he was killed for being a Manchu they ask, why not some Manchu of high authority? The opinion is hazarded by one that the crime was committed simply to call attention to the feeling over the frontier dispute and also over the suppression of gambling.

Another believes that the man mistook the heavily-guarded sedan chair for that of the Viceroy, whom he intended to make his victim.

All the papers express amazement that the crime was possible with so large a guard around the chair, and call on the authorities to take immediate steps to inculcate discipline in the men.

Mention is made of a huge snake that was killed on the aviation ground a few days ago and this is regarded as having been a dark omen.

London, April 10, 11.45 p.m.

The report of the battle practice of the British fleets for 1910, is to hand.

The results are as follows:—

Australian Squadron, ... 212.6
Third Division Home Fleet, 192.6
China, ... 185.1

Peking, April 10.

The Emperor, the Empress Dowager and the Prince Regent intend to take up their residence in the Summer Palace this summer. The expenses will come to about $6,000,000.

The Board of Finance is at a loss what to do, owing to lack of funds.

Peking, April 10.

The Prince Regent intends to introduce conscription for the army in China.

Peking, April 10.

The President of the Board of Communications proposes to raise a loan of £500,000 from Holland, Belgium and Denmark for the improvement of the telegraphic lines in Mongolia and Tibet.

London, April 11, 6.50 a.m.

War correspondents reporting from Tangier on the situation round Fez, where the rebel tribes are besieging the Sultan, state that rain is damping the ardour of the belligerents.

The fall is a regular deluge and the consequent floods make any military operations practically impossible.

In Fez the Sultan is holding his own fairly well.

Troops are embarking from the chief Spanish ports.

London, April 11, 6.50 a.m.

Advices have reached Constantinople that heavy fighting has taken place at Sanaa, Arabia.

The insurgents, who are beleaguring the town have been making continuous assaults upon it, fierce fighting going on for ten hours.

The insurgents used heavy artillery, but the troops and inhabitants, who are defending the town resolutely, succeeded in repulsing them.

Telegrams.

London, April 10, 11.45 p.m.

The Prinzess Irene has been refloated.

Peking, April 10.

The senators of the National Assembly have jointly petitioned the President urging him to hold on extraordinary general meeting to discuss the frontier disputes, the preparation of the budget, and the raising of foreign loans.

The Grand Council strongly protested against the scheme.

Peking, April 10.

The President of the Board of Communications has telegraphed to the Governor of Kweichow urging him to raise a foreign loan for the construction of the Hunan railway, so as to prevent the foreigners from gaining access.

Canton, April 11.

The trial of the assassin was resumed at the Pun U magistracy in the presence of the Taotai for the Constabulary, the Kwongchow assessor and a deputy who was sent by the Viceroy to watch the case, on the afternoon of the 9th inst.

The prisoner declared that on his return from Singapore, he took up his quarters in Hongkong and had been to Canton twice, attempting to kill H. E. Ching Chi, the popular Tartar General, who was then acting Viceroy. He did not carry out his aims as he had no bombs with him and he did not think much of the explosives sold locally.

When questioned as to whether he had any personal grudge against the Tartar General; the prisoner replied in the negative. He gave the reason that the attempt was prompted by his

ANTI MANCHU FEELINGS.

He held the Manchus responsible for the downfall of China and the Chinese people. The assassination was committed on behalf of his compatriots. When asked why he had no assistance in carrying out this crime, the prisoner replied that the affair was quite different from the clan fights. In that case more men would have been needed to build up a strong force. He was afraid that had he conspired to murder the Tartar General with others, he would have been betrayed before the attempt was made. He further said that accomplices would surely have been useless to him. He said, for example, that all the General's body-guard ran away when the first shot was fired and if he had accomplices they would probably have done as the body-guards had done.

At this stage the officials present threatened the prisoner with the

USE OF TORTURES.

The prisoner replied that he was prepared to receive any kind of torture they might like to inflict on him.

His fellow lodger, A Fook, who was brought before the Magistrate, said he was employed on the Canton-Kowloon Railway as a labourer. When he learned of the murder of the Tartar General he was thunderstruck, and now he had the misfortune to be detained in custody by the officials.

The assassin consoled him by saying that he had nothing to do with the crime and that his life would be saved. The prisoner further said he had been in the employ of the late uncle of the present Educational Commissioner in Canton and also in the employ of Wing-fun, an expectant magistrate, who is holding a position in the garrison department.

Magistrate Wong was sent for and he identified the prisoner as his former servant. At the trial the prisoner was dressed in an old blue coat. He spoke Court dialect perfectly. The trial was concluded and the prisoner was ordered to fix his finger seal on the statement of confession. The Pun U Magistrate was very kind to the prisoner and instructed his subordinates to supply him with water and food besides $4. The prisoner was then removed to the Pun U prison to await his sentence.

Out of respect to the memory of the late unfortunate Tartar General, there are displayed elaborate marks of mourning. On Sunday, the foreign river gunboats flying at the Shamoen flew their flags at the half-mast. On the foreign consulates also the flags were half-masted.

Telegrams.

London, April 12th.

The result of the recount on a petition in the parliamentary election for Exeter is that Mr. Duke, K.C. (U.), is returned by a majority of one after a week of exciting scrutiny.

This is a Unionist gain, Mr. St. Maur, Liberal, having been declared elected last December by a majority of four over Mr. Duke.

Peking, April 22.

The President of the Board of Communications has had a conference with the British Minister in Peking about raising a loan for the development of railways in Kiangsu.

Peking, April 12.

The Grand Councillors have recalled the Chinese Minister at Tokyo for the purpose of questioning him about the triple alliance between Great Britain, America and Japan.

Peking, April 12.

The terms of office of the superintendents of finance, despatched by the Board of Finance to the various provinces, have expired. The President of the Board of Finance considered that these superintendents have performed their duties to the satisfaction of the Board, and in some cases they have opposed the actions of the governors and viceroys in dealing with financial questions.

Accordingly, the President has memorialized the Throne recommending the re-appointment of these superintendents.

Peking, April 12.

Owing to the assassination of the Tartar General Fu Chi, the President of the Army Board and the Grand Councillors have telegraphed to the various provinces to hunt down all anarchists.

Peking, April 12.

The Grand Councillors have all increased their numbers of body guards on account of the assassination of the Tartar General Fu Chi.

Canton, April 13.

The Viceroy is in receipt of instructions from the Throne that the trial of the late Tartar-General's assassin should be carefully and strictly conducted. His Excellency has fixed to-day for holding the trial.

The trial will take place in the yamen, with the Provincial Treasurer and the Provincial Judge on the bench. A report of the proceedings, the statement made by the prisoner and the evidence against him, will be forwarded to the Throne at the conclusion of the trial.

The wife of the late Tartar-General has repeatedly wired up to Peking urging the Throne to have the assassin punished as soon as possible, and has asked the Viceroy to arrest all the cowardly body-guard, who fled when the Tartar-General was assassinated; also, to cause an enquiry to be made into their conduct, and to inflict severe punishment upon the culprits. The body-guards have been detained in custody pending inquiry.

The policemen who arrested the assassin have been rewarded. The one who chased the assassin and held him fast was rewarded with $200 and the others $50 each.

Peking, April 12.

Owing to the intensity of feeling among the people, the Peking Government has telegraphically instructed the viceroys and governors of the various provinces to prevent them from forming territorial corps, volunteer corps and other associations for national defence.

Peking, April 12.

The Admiralty has memorialized the Throne to despatch the cruiser, Hoi Chi, to England for the coronation. A sum of $200,000 has been put aside to meet the expenses.

Peking, April 12.

A Chinese Commissioner in Mongolia has telegraphically requested the reinforcement of the recruits in Kansu. He stated in the telegram that the Russian Government has increased the number of troops in Mongolia.

Peking, April 12.

On hearing the news of the partition of China, the Prince Regent has instructed Princes Tao and Tsan, and the President of the Army Board, to get the army and navy prepared for any emergency without delay.

Telegrams.

London, April 10th

The Dreadnought cruiser Indefatigable has undergone her twenty-four hours trials, her speed averaging 20 knots.

This is a record for all warships excepting torpedo-boat destroyers.

London, April 10, 11.45 p.m.

The cruiser, Indefatigable, on her trial achieved 20 knots.

Bombay, April 10, 1.40 p.m.

The N. D. L. Prinzess Irene, which ran aground on Fire Island, New York, has been refloated. She has been moved into dock.

Singapore, April 13, 12.33 p.m.

Recently a mysterious disease broke out in the Malang district of Java, and was at first thought to be a severe form of malaria.

The doctors, however, have now decided that it is plague.

There have been 100 cases reported, and 75 deaths.

The Java newspapers declare that the medical view of the epidemic is gloomy.

The doctors and the civilians are conferring with a view of framing rules and instituting measures to prevent the disease from spreading over the whole of the island.

Peking, April 12.

Censor Chu Ping Lun has impeached the Board of Foreign Affairs for neglect of duty. Prince Ching and H. E. Na Tung were so angry that they dismissed him from the censorate instantly.

Peking, April 11.

Viceroy Hsi Liang, of the Three Eastern Provinces, has tendered his resignation, and the Viceroy of Szechwan has repeatedly refused to take his post.

The Grand Council intends to appoint the Governor of Soochow as Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces.

Peking, April 11.

Viceroy Hsi Liang, of the Three Eastern Provinces, has memorialized the throne stating that the Russian Government has increased the number of Russian troops at all the important posts in Manchuria.

He also states in the memorial that the Russian soldiers have interfered with the transportation of Chinese military stores.

Peking, April 9.

The Russian Minister in Peking has again requested the Board of Foreign Affairs to prohibit the native press from publishing sensational articles about the relationships between Russia and China.

The Board of Foreign Affairs is considering the matter, as it is contrary to the freedom of the press.

Peking, April 11.

Prince Ching was greatly alarmed when he received the news of the assassination of Tartar General Fu Chi of Canton. He at once ordered the number of his body guards to be greatly increased, for the protection of his palace.

HONGKONG'S DEFENCES.

ARE THEY SAFE?

The question of the defence of our Far Eastern Possessions was referred to by General Pole-Carew in the course of the debate on the Army Estimates in the House of Commons. He asked the Secretary for War whether he was satisfied with the garrisons we had at Hongkong, Singapore, and Ceylon. For instance, he remarked, had one of the Inspectors-General who were always travelling about in a sort of semi-regal state advised the right hon. gentleman that he was satisfied with the position at Hongkong?

Mr. Haldane, in replying to the points raised in the debate, vouchsafed no information on the subject.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

[THE "TELEGRAPH" CORRESPONDENT]

Canton, April 12.

Yesterday the Customs officials, from information received, notified the water police to institute a search on board the s.s. Hoining, plying between Hongkong and Canton, for an emigrant contractor named Chung a Sui. This was done and the man was arrested together with 20 emigrants, who are alleged to have been kidnapped by him. The batch is being detained in custody awaiting trial.

THE Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1911

JAPAN'S TRADE.

(8th April.)

The new Anglo-Japanese commercial treaty, telegraphic news of which we published yesterday, draws attention to the interesting report on Japanese commerce published under the direction of the French Ministry of Trade and Industry. The author is a M. Pila, who has studied his subject deeply, and while his report is too voluminous for detailed mention some of his "findings" will be of interest and value at this juncture when the commerce of England and Japan is undergoing a change. Dealing with the subject of direct trade M. Pila adduces two powerful reasons against it, which are indeed symptomatic of the Japanese market, namely, its instability and uncertainty and the peculiarities of Japanese commercial morality. Under the first objection must be placed the extraordinary variations of the market due to extreme sensitiveness in demand. The consuming power of the people, says M. Pila, is capable of remarkable contraction. Under the influence of an economic cause or even of administrative intervention it may be reduced considerably, restricting to a corresponding extent the possibilities of trade in general and imports in particular. In its review of M. Pila's report the "Japan Chronicle" points out that a large number of Japanese merchants have no solidity—in fact, possess nothing. They exist only in times of prosperity, and then principally on the credit accorded them, often imprudently, by foreign importers. How can it be expected, therefore, asks M. Pila, that the manufacturer abroad, far away and generally ill-informed, would be in a position to adopt all the measures and precautions required by these changing circumstances?

The second objection to direct trade referred to by M. Pila lies in the peculiarities of Japanese commercial morality, about which so much has been said, not only by foreigners who have had bitter experiences and those who have Japan's welfare at heart, but by influential Japanese in Government and private circles who refuse to shut their eyes to unpleasant facts. As M. Pila says, Japan's commercial dishonesty has become the current theme of dissertations in the Press, of homilies by economists and responsible persons, of Ministerial circulars, of Japanese Consular reports, &c. Let us hope that the new treaty will place Anglo-Japanese trade on a sounder footing.

THE USES OF ADVERSITY.

It is a pleasure to believe, as we are told, that there is a silver lining to every cloud; it is particularly pleasant to accept this statement in view of the situation in China at the present moment. The clouds have been gloomy above her for some time past. She has suffered the plague, has been taken to task by Russia, and—if the result proves anything—proved in the wrong, and has had to throw cold water upon the somewhat excessive aspirations of her newly-elected "Commons." She is not yet out of the wood, but at least light has been thrown upon her path, and while the indications of the latter—we refer to the telegrams in our news columns to-day—are somewhat sensational, they clearly enough show that the country is awakening to a true sense of its position. The ethics of the dispute with Russia matter very little at all. Certain obligations, wrongly or rightly undertaken, were not fulfilled, and China has had to swallow the bitter pill produced by her own failure. But she recognised it as bitter and, as the telegrams we publish show, is awake at last to the necessity of "growing up." The talk of reorganising the army and navy is nothing more than an indication of the people's desire to stand four-square to the winds of modern life. It indicates that they have at last recognised that a sense of security makes for progress, that the safety of the homestead means the development of the homestead. The army may be "Prussianised," the Navy "Anglicised," but the great point is that the people of China are beginning to realise that diplomacy, however cunning, is a broken reed, and that force and force only demands attention and respect. By force we do not mean the policy of the "big stick," but the producing of inherent strength, the development of natural wealth and the nationalising of opinion. The stress of progress is being too plainly felt by China to allow her to remain unmoved by the "adversities" which lately have galled her. She must change under them, and if we may read into the "heady" articles of her Press the spirit we believe is there, the change has already begun, and is one that will make the occupation of future "Kuljas" impossible.

A DASTARDLY CRIME.

(10th April.)

The dastardly murder of the Acting Tartar General of Canton, details of which we publish in our telegraphic news, will be read of with the deepest regret, apart from any feeling of sympathy we may have with the murdered official and his sorrowing relatives. The crime, in fact, in its political significance is a horrifying one. "I killed . . . on behalf of my 400,000,000 Chinese brothers," said the murderer, and these words will fly like a Fiery Cross throughout the Empire and cause we dare not predict what risings and agitations among the people. There can be little doubt that the unfortunate situation between China—and the Powers at the present moment and the alleged weakness of the Government was the last straw which forced the wretched assassin to do what he has done. The anti-Manchu party have, naturally, seen a weapon ready to their use in the present difficulties of the Government, and have consistently made inflammatory accusations and appeals. "Betraying the Nation," "Selling the Country's Honour" were favourite cries, and doubtless these wrought up the man from Singapore to the pitch of murder. Now the spark has been struck and it will need all the diplomacy and careful administration of the authorities to prevent it developing into a dangerous blaze. The country is far from satisfied with its position. Its new born pride has received a rude shock in Manchuria, Mongolia, Szechuan and Yunnan and it thirsts to express itself definitely. If the mode is to be anarchy it is impossible to foresee the result.

FREE TRADE.

It is very satisfactory always to be able to see light in dark places, and we must certainly congratulate Mr. Winston Churchill on finding in the new commercial treaty with Japan a "splendid vindication" of Free Trade.

The Right Honourable gentleman is an authority, we must suppose, on the subjects on which he speaks and it therefore follows that he must hold information which makes the complaints of British merchants dealing with Japan, which are both loud and long, unworthy of serious consideration. Mr. Churchill is a very happy young man; his declarations are cabled all over the world; but we, in this instance the poor ignorants "on the spot," fail to see wherein the "formal recognition by a great Power" that "the great free market of Great Britain is a boon greater than that offered by the tariff-controlled markets of other powers" becomes a splendid vindication of Free Trade. It seems to us that it sounds much more like cheers from the opposition that we do not reform. Japan, in so many words, has not adopted Free Trade but recognises the boon of that policy in Great Britain;—the boon of it, that is, to her. To raise a wall to protect your own does not commend itself as a boon to those who would fight you. One can imagine the Picts and Scots enthusiastically supporting the Roman Governor who levelled the great walls—which barred their progress south; but it would be difficult to picture the Romans and the southern British regarding the enthusiasm as a "splendid vindication" of their far-seeing policy. It is true the new treaty contains a schedule which allows for a certain amount of reciprocity, but the fact remains that Japan is still Protectionist and Great Britain, splendidly vindicated, supports Free Trade. Japan has need of certain articles from England,—until she can manufacture the same herself. Until she can she will admit them free—to the greater glory of Free Trade! She is not alone in this policy, which is a policy we wish England would adopt, but since we have received a pat on the back because we will not protect our working people, we must make the best of things, and be glad at least that Mr. Winston Churchill is pleased. It's a poor heart that never rejoices.

THE JAPANESE IN TREATY PORTS.

(11th April.)

The extraordinary success which has attended Japan's efforts to gain trade and her continued growth in this direction is one of the most significant features of the commercial world to-day. It is particularly noticeable in China, where a gradual but quite perceptible process of elimination of foreign firms is going on in favour of Japanese. This is a matter that is not widely recognised, but it is time that it should be, and that we should awake to the domination which threatens us. The system that has produced this state and which will extend it, is the Japanese combination of government and commercial interests in foreign lands. We recognise, of course, that all governments keep more than one eye on commerce, but whereas, in the case of the English, for instance, the trader's direct representative is unhappily only too often divorced from the government official, the Japanese policy is mainly to gain direct commercial connection in foreign countries and her government officials work largely with this end in view. As regards China, the policy is having an enormous influence. The older British and American houses are steadily losing ground, and the Chinese themselves, if they do not feel the change as yet, are certainly suffering to some degree. That very interesting collection of figures, the annual statistical report of the Imperial Maritime Customs, gives us proof in this direction. It has compiled a table showing the number and nationality of the various foreign firms in China, and we learn from it that while the Americans increased from 112 firms in 1906 to 113 in 1909, and the British from 492 to 502, the Japanese increased from 739 to 1,492. This is a very great change, and a very clear indication of what is in store for us. China's commerce is, of course, not inexhaustible, but it will naturally fall into the hands of those who possess such power of expansion and at the same time can carry on their offices so cheaply. Altogether there were 2,801 foreign firms operating in China at the end of 1909. Of these nearly three-quarters were Japanese. It is time we realised the meaning of these rather alarming figures. Such overwhelming competition needs a bold front to face it. Japan certainly deserves praise and congratulation for the marked success which has attended her ceaseless efforts to increase her foreign commerce.

CHINESE CONSCRIPTION.

The Prince Regent is reported to have decided to introduce conscription in China. We publish the telegram to that effect in our news columns. It conjures up a somewhat overwhelming picture of military strength. On the supposition that there are three women to every man and three children to every woman we would have remaining, roughly, sixty millions—all men. If forty per cent. of these are allowed to be incapables, the conscript army remains at the satisfactory strength of 30,000,000. This, of course, is an overwhelming force for any country to possess, and, indeed, as a mere wall of living flesh could prevent invasion, but it seems to us an absolute impossibility for China at present to carry out His Imperial Highness' suggestion. Conscripts must be fed and clothed and armed. Where is the money to come from? The Prince well knows his exchequer has not got it. Even if he were content with six million men the country cannot as yet afford them. On the other hand we would welcome conscription in China for several reasons. It would have a good moral effect upon the country at large, would brace the men of the nation as they need, teach them the value of obedience to established order, and generally have a restraining influence. The French and German peasants are good examples of the conscript in private life. Again, the economic effect would not be lacking. Conscription would relieve the pressure of life on the soil, give breathing space to the agriculturist, and lessen the danger of famine. The men themselves would return to their homes after their period of service certainly improved in education and probably imbued with new ideas. But the most reasoned opinion unfortunately does not alter the great main fact,—there is no money. And if the old problems of currency and communications are not harried towards a progressive completion, the dawn of universal peace will have broken on the world before China can hope to perfect her army.

SIDELIGHTS.

(12th April.)

Very few foreign residents in China find time or means to follow carefully the trend of politics at home, although intensely interested in the outcome of any of the great questions that produce general elections and hot debates in the House, but an occasional sidelight on the matters that fill the pages of the home press may help local political prophets, if any there be, to form their opinions. As a matter of fact the political situation at home at the moment is quaintly interesting; anything indeed will attract attention when it becomes ludicrous. Three great problems confront legislators, the Parliament Bill, which is to wipe out the House of Lords; Welsh Disestablishment, which explains itself; and Home Rule for Ireland, which may mean anything. Mr. Asquith is pledged to all three, and since the Welsh and the Irish give him a majority, one would imagine that all was plain sailing. Alas, such is not the case. In the first place the Lords fail to see why they shouldn't "have a shot" at reform themselves, and so about the time they receive the Parliament Bill from the Commons the Commons will receive the Reform Bill from the Lords. The Commons demanding respectful attention for their measure must give their Lordships' bantling equal consideration. If they do not like its appearance they must amend it, and there at once we come to the only feasible settlement—by agreement. Thus all the noisy talk of the past months has been wasted.

The other two problems are more intricate, but the situation they bring about is equally amusing. If the Irish vote were removed from Westminster Mr. Asquith would find himself with a majority probably unequal to bringing in Welsh Disestablishment. Thus argue the Welsh. So they oppose Home Rule—until they are "all snugged up and comfy," themselves. The Irish do not care a rap one way or the other for Disestablishment; it has to do with a "heretic" church any way; but being Irish they declare they will have Home Rule now if not sooner, and so they oppose Welsh Disestablishment. Mr. Asquith soothes the belligerents as best he may, but the only way to do it is not to legislate at all (in order that he may retain a majority with which to legislate) while he murmurs "There, there now!" like the old nurse of contemporary print. Meanwhile the Opposition attacks the three impartially, and the whole four parties it will be readily agreed form a picture for the laughter of the Gods. What would we not give for a little of the same element in local politics!

OPIUM SMUGGLING.

One of the most serious questions with which the Customs authorities in Manila have to grapple is the prevention of the illegal entry of opium smuggled from Hongkong. The wiles of

the Asiatic opium smuggler are innumerable. In skill and effrontery he surpasses the old "free traders" who used to run cargoes of lace and brandy into England from Holland and France. But he differs from the old Channel smuggler in this respect. The latter carried the proscribed goods at his own risk: that is to say, at the risk of being shot or losing his ship. The Asiatic opium smuggler, on the other hand, employs surreptitiously other people's vessels to carry the dangerous cargo and requires only to see to their safe entry past the Customs barrier. In this way owners of steamships running from Hongkong to the Philippines become unconscious agents and abettors of the smuggler. Innocent looking packages made up to resemble some commonplace cargo are often found to contain thousands of dollars worth of illicit opium. However willing may the shipmaster be to aid the authorities in their efforts to suppress the traffic, the fact remains that amongst his freight may be concealed vast quantities of the poppy drug which it is the desire of the Philippines authorities to exclude. In Hongkong the illicit opium dealer is very drastically dealt with indeed, yet still the traffic proceeds. Sentences of heavy fines and imprisonment are freely dealt out, and still there is no cessation in the unlawful trade. In Manila it has been thriving, principally on account of the lax manner in which the repressive laws have been administered in the past. It was the practice for some time to impose light fines upon persons found to be implicated in the smuggling or distribution of opium, so that the business became as it were a kind of commercial gamble—the amount of the possible monetary penalty versus the vigilance of the Customs. Last week, however, a decided check was dealt to the illicit traffic in the form of a long prison term and a heavy fine imposed by Judge Gale upon Esteban de la Cruz and nine accomplices who had attempted to land in Manila 10,000 pesos worth of prepared opium which entered the port concealed in cement barrels forming part of the cargo of the Hongkong-Manila liner Zafiro. The sentences ranged from eighteen months in Bilibid, with a fine of 1000 pesos, to four months and a day. That gaol sentences of severity constitute the only real preventive against illegal trading in the drug was made more than ever apparent in this instance, for within twelve hours after the sentences had been passed the prices of opium in the secret trade went up one hundred per cent. It just amounts to this: that it is futile to pass heavy penalties upon the puny accomplices while the principal escapes with a fine. The principal is quite prepared to pay any number of fines but he does not want to go to gaol. So that when the identity of a principal is disclosed, there should be no hesitation on the part of the judge to inflict that form of punishment which has been proved from experience to be the only effective deterrent.

THE MOTE AND THE BEAM.

(13th April.)

The general public, we are sure, read with satisfaction the references which were made at the Sanitary Board meeting to the dumping of rubbish in the streets of the city. The practice has grown steadily of late, much to the detriment of what are after all very handsome streets, and is, of course, deleterious to health. We agree with Mr. Chatham, in opposition to the opinion of Mr. Brewin, that the crime of dumping is not fitted by the punishment of a fine of three dollars. There is no excuse whatever for it, and the City Fathers as represented by the Sanitary Board could not be too severe. Indifference to dirt is an inherent failing of the Chinese lower classes and needs to be combatted by strong measures. "To make the punishment fit the crime" has become a principle with many people, but it should not be forgotten that the idea was given to the world in an extravagant opera. If the crime is preventible by a heavier punishment than that involved in the principle let that latter punishment by all means be imposed. There must, however, be adequate warning given. The Chinese concerned in the question do not see eye to eye with us in this matter, and a series of "public health placards" might very usefully be employed to bring to their notice the danger which their indifference to the ordinary canons of sanitation produces. Being a naturally inquisitive people we may be sure that public warnings against the deposit of garbage in the streets would be read and discussed by them, and severe measures against offenders might then be taken in all justice. So much for the mote in the eye of our poorer Chinese neighbour, now for the beam in the Board's.

We respectfully draw the attention of the honourable members to the fact that their own Sanitary Board coolies are offenders against public health in more ways than one. In the first place they deposit every morning collected garbage at a spot close to the Lower Peak Tramway station, between the station and the Military Prison. There at about seven o'clock every morning, it is scattered on the ground, gone over for whatever of value it contains and then removed to the place appointed. No one will have any objection to the garbage coolies making what they can out of it, but we cannot allow them to do so when the result is the exposure to the four winds, of matter which very probably, almost certainly, contains germs of disease. Does the Sanitary Board know of this practice, and if it does not will it see to it that whoever has the duty of supervision of these coolies will be reminded of his remissness? Mr. Chatham very naturally deplored the expense which the depositing of rubbish in the streets entailed on his Board. Now, we are told that virtue is its own reward, and we suggest therefore to the honourable member that he takes this matter up and by removing what is a distinct source of danger to public health, as well as a very bad example to those whose "crimes" he would more heavily punish, and earn the thanks of the community.

We also draw the attention of the Board to the very late hour at which street cleaning is done. Sanitary measures are primarily undertaken in the interests of health, but they are also an amelioration of life, and it is both unhealthful and unpleasant to walk to one's office in a cloud of dust raised by sweeping coolies and over a thin carpet of rubbish. It is not too much to expect the civic authorities to see to it that the coolies complete their work at an hour well in advance of the usual business ones, while we also commend to the Board's attention the advisability of insisting on store keepers and offices removing all rubbish and generally carrying out their cleansing before seven o'clock in the morning. The East may be the land of the lotus, but the City of Hongkong certainly should not allow practices which would not be tolerated for a moment in an English provincial town. Will the Sanitary Board remove these beams from its eye, and then become optician to the proletariat?

THREE MILLION DOLLAR RAID.

VILLAGE RANSACKED AFTER BEING WARNED.

A daring armed robbery took place at the village of Young Kiang, near Sunning, up the West River some days ago.

The robber band, three hundred strong, arrived in fishing junks carrying quick firing guns, and took possession of the village. Some of the men collected every available article of value, the booty amounting to some three million dollars. The band then went away, no resistance being offered them.

The strange thing about the story is that a few days before the robbery the chief men of the village received an anonymous letter informing them that it would be carried out at such and such a time, and warning them against resistance. They thought it was a hoax, and took no notice, much to their present sorrow.

Mr. Charles Stewart, of Leeds, arrived Monday by the P. & O. s.s. Sicilia to take charge of the engineering department of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Department).

A BUSY NIGHT FOR THE FIRE BRIGADE.

S.S. TELEMACHUS ABLAZE.

The Hongkong Fire Brigade in all its record has perhaps never had a more busy night than Wednesday. From 8 p.m. yesterday till 9 a.m. to-day, the Brigade has had its full energies called into action. Its entire strength, too, was taxed to the uttermost, and unfortunately not without bodily injury to the Corps, for two of the members—Firemen Lanaghan and Murphy—met with accidents whilst assisting at the serious fire which occurred on board the s.s. Telemachus lying in the harbour.

No fewer than three fires occurred during the night, the first being at West Point.

The alarm was given at 8 p.m. from No. 110 Second Street. The Brigade lost no time in turning out and extinguished the blaze in less than two hours. The fire occurred on the top floor of the building, which was occupied by ten merchants. The second and ground floor were occupied by rickshaw coolies. The first and second floors were destroyed and the roof fell in. The amount of damage done has not yet been ascertained. When the flames had been got under the Brigade returned to their stations, leaving a few men to stand by in case of emergency.

HARBOUR FIRE.

Next the alarm was given that fire had broken out on board a ship lying in the Harbour. The two floats were at once got under way, but some difficulty was experienced in finding the distressed vessel as no fire-lights could be seen exposed. At length, however, the floats were guided to the s.s. Telemachus by the clanging of her ship's bell.

No time was lost in getting on board, and it was then ascertained that the fire had broken out and was raging in No. 2 lower hold amongst a cargo of bran. Just as the brigade were setting to work, Commander Beckwith, R.N., who was in charge, had his attention called to the signs of another outbreak of fire in the direction of the land but apparently amongst the shipping. To cope with this new danger, a squad of men were detached and sent to lend assistance. This fire turned out to be in Wing Lok Street.

Meanwhile, the outbreak on the Telemachus was discovered to have secured a very firm hold upon the lower decks in the forehold and the hold amidships. The two powerful floats pumped huge quantities of water down upon the smouldering cargo, which sent up dense clouds of blinding smoke that made the firemen's task all the more difficult.

Whilst attempting through the smoke to get close to the seat of the outbreak Firemen R. Lanaghan and T. Murphy were struck by the jet from a hose-pipe and were knocked down an open hatchway into the hold, where were already over ten feet of water. Owing to the smoke in the hold, it was almost impossible to see or breathe. For a few anxious moments they were in great danger, but ropes were lowered to them and they were drawn to the deck. Both were extremely exhausted.

By this time so much water had been pumped into the hold that the vessel began to take on a very heavy list; so much so that Captain Fraser became apprehensive that she might turn turtle, and the pumping was stopped until she righted herself, which she did slowly.

Ladders were now lowered into the hold and the firemen descended and fought the fire at close quarters. Great difficulty was experienced in getting at the flames which were blazing underneath the deck, part of which had to be cut away. It was some six hours before the conflagration was got under.

The damage done must be very extensive, as the cargo in the two holds was deluged in water. At the time the fire broke out there was no steam up on the Telemachus, otherwise the fire might have been got under with greater expedition, for instead of pumping operations having to be stopped when there appeared to be a danger of the ship capsizing she might have been run on the mud and kept on an even keel whilst the holds were flooded.

The Telemachus was bought by Chinese about six months ago from the Blue Funnel Line. The agents are Messrs. Wo Fat Sing and Co.

WING LOK ST. FIRE.

Whilst one section of the brigade was busy on board the Telemachus a second party was engaged in dealing with the fire in Wing Lok Street which had broken out simultaneously. This fire occurred on the second floor of a three storey building, the ground floor of which was used as a piece goods store. Four hydrants were quickly brought into play and the fire was got under in about two hours. The second and third floors and the roof were burned down and the bottom floors and their contents were greatly damaged by water and breakage. So far the amount of the damage is not known.

It says a great deal for our Fire Brigade that they were able to cope so successfully with the three outbreaks—one of them of a very serious nature—which occurred during the night. Practically the whole of the brigade was in action at the one time, for with the Central corps away on the Telemachus, the Eastern and Western detachments had to be called to the Wing Lok Street outbreak. The Central men had already been at one duty that night, so that those who went to the steamer fire had a good long spell of hard work and they are all supposed to be ready for a fresh call in the morning had such a thing occur. It is often the unexpected that happens, and it may be that some night when all hands are fully engaged at one time, as they were on this occasion, still another fire may break out in a remote part of the city which has been left unguarded or under-handed. Great credit is due to the members of the brigade for the way they worked at all three fires. Firemaster A. Lane was present at the Telemachus fire as well as the one earlier in the evening.

TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION.

IN HONGKONG.

A meeting of the Coronation Committee was held yesterday afternoon to consider what form the Coronation celebrations should take in the Colony. Sir Francis T. Piggott, the Chief Justice, presided, and the proceedings were conducted in private.

We understand that a variety of suggestions was brought forward. The chairman first of all read a letter from the Governor stating that the Government were prepared to subscribe to any fund for a permanent memorial. The Chairman also suggested that perhaps the illuminations might be conducted on a less extravagant scale than had been the case on some previous festive occasions. This suggestion was not altogether cordially supported. The Chinese section of the committee had their programme cut and dried and they were able to announce at once through their spokesman that the Chinese community had decided against a permanent memorial. They were in favour of making the day a day of joy with processions, music, children's entertainments, illuminations and fireworks. On the contrary the British section of the committee had no shipshape programme ready to hand and much time was needlessly wasted in discussing projects that could never come to any practical issue. Eventually it was decided to abandon the idea of a permanent memorial and to expend the Coronation Fund more or less in the manner suggested from the Chinese side of the committee.

It was also decided to hold a public meeting in the City Hall on Tuesday next at 5.30 p.m. to consider the whole scheme of celebrations.

PLAGUE IN CANTON.

[THE "TELEGRAPH" CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, April 12.

Bubonic plague has made its appearance both in Canton and Fatshan and is claiming many victims daily. Generally the victim succumbs to the disease 24 hours after infection. The percentage of recoveries is very low. The "bear's gall remedy," which is very largely believed in by the Chinese, seems to be of very little use.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held Tuesday afternoon. There were present:—Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Hon. Mr. A. Chatham, Hon. Mr. Brewin, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Hon. Mr. A. Hewitt, Mr. Ng Hon Tze, Dr. F. Clark, (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. J. W. Hartley (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Col. Bedford and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

PROPOSED CHANGE OF NAME REJECTED.

The first business before the meeting was a minute by the President relative to the proposed change of title of the Board from "Sanitary Board" to "Board of Health." The result, he said, of revising the Ordinance by the Chief Justice was that it was suggested that the Sanitary Department was a very cumbersome term. Members would bear him out, that the title strictly speaking did not cover the work done by the Board and he suggested that the title be changed to the Board of Health.

Mr. Shelton Hooper said that without making a formal amendment he would advise members to vote against the proposed change. The same title as that under which they worked at present was in use in England and Wales and what was good enough for them was surely good enough for little Hongkong. Besides under this proposed new title they might lose their identity and have their powers more curtailed even than they had been in the past.

Hon. Mr. Hewett could not see any reason for change of name and coincided with Mr. Hooper.

Colonel Bedford said that as a mere bird of passage perhaps he was hardly justified in speaking but he undoubtedly favoured the proposed change of title as being more properly descriptive of their work and activities.

Hon. Mr. Brewin preferred the word "health" to "sanitary" but after what had been said he would not press for the alteration.

The President formally moved the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Chatham seconded.

On the motion being put to the meeting it was lost by 8 votes to 3.

COMPLAINT RE CONSERVANCY CONTRACTOR.

There was laid on the table the report of a special committee who had investigated into charges against the city conservancy contractor to the effect that he had on 23rd February failed to remove all night-soil, etc., collected in his conservancy boats to Kwangchau Bay, contrary to his contract, but had instead removed the material to Cheungshawan.

The contractor explained that this had happened because some of his small junks, from which the refuse was transferred for carriage, had been delayed by a contrary wind and in passing Cheungshawan the crews saw one of the big junks at anchorage there and compelled it to take delivery. He promised to warn the crew against a repetition of of the offence.

WATER CLOSET QUESTION.

There was laid on the table an application for permission to erect 24 water-closets at Nos. 2 and 3 Praya East.

Mr. Shelton Hooper:—Grant.

Colonel Bedford:—Grant.

Hon. Mr. Brewin:—Is there a good current flowing past this point of the Praya?

Hon. Mr. Chatham:—The main sewer with which the drain for these premises is connected, has its outfall at Ship Street.

STREET DUMPING OF RUBBISH.

The list of prosecutions for March for breaches of the Health Ordinances contained several cases in which a fine of $3 had been imposed for dumping rubbish in the street.

Hon. Mr. Chatham:—Some heavier penalty should be pressed for in the matter of dumping rubbish in the streets. It is a very common practice and a very objectionable one, besides involving the Government in considerable expense for the removal of the rubbish. Many of the pretty parts of the city, such as Glenealy, are made eyesores by such dumping.

Hon. Mr. Brewin:—$3 is equivalent to a fine of at least 24/- in England, and in my opinion the punishment fits the crime or more than fits it.

DEATH RATE.

It was reported that the death rate for the whole population of the Colony during the week ended 18th March was 13.8 per 1000 per annum as against 18.1 in the previous week.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return showed that during the week ended 1st April the number of rats destroyed in the Colony was 1982 as compared with 1840 in the preceding week. Four of the rodents were found to be infected with plague.

SUBMARINES FOR HONGKONG.

EXCITING INCIDENT IN THE RED SEA.

OFFICER OVERBOARD.

In the near future, the advent of three submarines will mark a new epoch in the history of the British navy in the Pacific. Although from time to time lengthy cruises have been made by submarines around the United Kingdom, this is the first time that British vessels of this type have been sent out of home waters. The submarines which set out early in February on their long voyage to Hongkong are C. 36 (Lieut. Godfrey Herbert), C 37 (Lieut. Athelstan Fenner), and C 38 (Lieut. John Codrington). Their officers say they have behaved admirably, and nothing has occurred on the voyage so far to cause those aboard the slightest anxiety.

These submarines set out for Hongkong to form the nucleus of the first overseas flotilla. Just outside Plymouth, they were joined by the Bonaventure and the Diana, the latter vessel having been ordered to accompany them as far as Malta. From Vigo to Gibraltar splendid weather was experienced, although stormy seas were encountered in some parts. Leaving the "Rock," rough seas compelled the submarines to return to harbour, but they were very soon able to resume their journey. At Malta they were delivered into the custody of H.M. cruisers Edgar Poloru,s Diana and Berham, the two last-named yielding place at Suez to the Highflyer.

The trip across the Indian ocean was accomplished in splendid weather, and although their convoys never once intentionally slipped their towing hawsers—the Highflyer's broke once in the Red Sea, but without any calamitous result. An exciting incident marked the trip from Aden to Colombo for the Edgar and C 38, which she was towing with a length of about 250 yards. Lieut. Codrington, in command of the submarine, was sitting on the edge of the deck in bathing costume one day, when the vessel gave a sudden lurch and the lieutenant fell into the water. The vessels were travelling at a full 12 knots, and before it was realised what had happened the lieutenant was in the water a hundred years or so behind. Hasty signals were made to the Edgar by those on board the submarine, and a boat was promptly lowered, and sent back, the submarine's crew having thoughtfully thrown a box or two overboard to guide the boat in making a search for the lieutenant. Lieutenant Codrington had been in the water about a quarter of an hour before he was picked up and taken on board. His recovery was, happily, very prompt, and he was able to appreciate the hidden humour conveyed in the mysterious signal from the Captain of the Edgar which followed the incident. The message contained a "reprimand" for Mr. Codrington for having committed the offence of "breaking ship," while the signal concluded with the words: "Officers and men are not to take leave without first asking the permission of the Captain." Lieutenant Codrington's reply signal was—"Regret having broken ship. Plead extenuating circumstances, and throw myself on the mercy of the court." The humorous episode caused no end of amusement on board the vessels.

The submarines were last heard of in Singapore, and are expected to arrive, shortly, in Hongkong.

China tea showed little change in London on March 17th, business being moderate and prices steady.

A CHINESE LICENSE.

Hung Yik Chi, 80, Shanghai Street, was charged Thursday before Mr. E. R. Hallifax with allowing intoxicating liquor to be consumed on his premises by others than Chinese between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

Mr. L. S. Ingham prosecuted, while Mr. P. S. Dixon (from the firm of Mr. R. A. Harding), appeared on behalf of the defendant.

Defendant pleaded not guilty.

P.C. Head stated that at 12.45 a.m. on the 31st ult. when on duty at Yaumati, he went to the Yee Fong restaurant, and found two Europeans sitting on the table each with a glass of stout.

His Worship—Did you find out if the license was for a Chinese restaurant?—I know it is.

Mr. Dixon—Were the Europeans there for some time?—Yes.

Do you know where the Europeans are now?—I don't know.

The Chinese are allowed to open all night?—Yes.

These men told you they were guests of the Chinese?—No.

A partner in the Yee Fong restaurant stated that he remembered that two Europeans came in and ate food and drank port. When he collected the payment it was about 11.30 p.m. The customers went to the next table, which was occupied by Chinese. They sat down. He did not notice who gave the Europeans the stout to drink.

His Worship—Did you notice the Europeans drinking wine?—I did not.

A waiter was next called and gave similar evidence.

His Worship imposed a fine of $20.

INTERPORT CRICKET.

At the annual meeting of the Shanghai Cricket Club, the chairman said they were aware that this year, at a very early period of the season, they had to meet Hongkong. He was down there in February and saw all the prominent cricketers and they assured him that they were coming up and that it would be at the end of May. This did not give them much time for practice, but rather than that the matches should fall through they must be prepared to meet them. It devolved on them to devote a great deal of time during May to getting ready for the match. In this connexion it would be for the incoming Committee to place themselves immediately in communication with Hongkong in order to fix dates.

H.E. SIR HENRY MAY IN FIJI.

FINDS CONDITIONS ENJOYABLE.

Writing to a friend in Hongkong, His Excellency Sir Henry May, the Governor of Fiji, says that he and his family are well and happy in their new home. The scenery of the islands is very pretty and the climate is better than that of Hongkong. In the day-time the heat is dry and not oppressive, while in the evening from five o'clock onwards it gets quite cool. There is excellent sea fishing to be had, and Sir Henry hopes to indulge in this form of relaxation as soon as his new duties permit.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA.

We have received a copy of the report to the shareholders of the directors of the Mercantile Bank of India for 1910. The net profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, and including £26,030 5s. 8d. brought forward from last account, amount to £108,807 4s. 8d. From this sum has to be deducted £16,875, being the interim dividend of 3 per cent., free of income tax, on the "A" and "B" shares paid for the half-year ending 30th June, 1910.

The directors have added £40,000 to reserve fund (raising it to £325,000) and £3,000 to the officers' pension fund. They now recommend a further dividend on the "A" and "B" shares of 4 per cent., free of income tax, for the second half of the year (making 7 per cent. for the year), leaving a balance of £26,522 4s. 8d. to be carried forward.

SUPREME COURT.

THE HONGKONG BUTCHERY CASE.

The case was resumed before his Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Piggott, at the Supreme Court Saturday morning, in which John Tatam, runner of the King Edward Hotel, is seeking for accounts to be taken in connection with the Hongkong Butchery Company since September, 1894, as against Frederick Howell, head bailiff of the Supreme Court, the appointment of a Receiver and for further or other relief.

Mr. M. W. Slade, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, was for the defendant.

Defendant's cross-examination was continued.

Mr. Slade—You were telling us yesterday in answer to my friend that from the beginning of the Hongkong Butchery Company in January, 1897, you were in the habit of crossing cashed cheques?

Defendant—I did so, but I was rather hasty about it. On going throught the pass-book, I find that I did not do so. My memory has had to go back 8 or 9 years and I could not remember.

Mr. Slade—When did you first begin doing this?

Defendant—I see in my pass-book that on the 18th November, 1904, that a cheque for $120 was paid and on the 21st a cheque for $50 and on the 17th I see cheques were paid for $183.09 and $143.80.

Mr. Slade—They are not approximately the same amounts?

Defendant—No, I would give him cheques in round sums. The item of $50 had nothing to do with the Hongkong Butchery Company but it concerned a solicitor of the Colony.

His Lordship—Mr. Howell, we don't want to know anything except payments which were made to the Hongkong Butchery Company in return for those cheques.

Mr. Slade—You say that you paid out to him $120 and $50.

Defendant—No, I don't say that. On the 18th I paid him $120.

Mr. Slade—And then you paid him $50?

Defendant—No wait a minute. I may have paid him from my own account.

Mr. Slade—When you received money, you did not pay back exactly the same amount?

Defendant—No. For example, if I received $267, I would give him $270 and keep the balance myself.

His Lordship — Then having regard to these complicated transactions, you must have kept some record of them.

Defendant — No, I have no records whatever.

His Lordship—It's not a question of your wanting a few dollars to keep in your own pockets. On 18th November you received $147.80. Surely, you must have kept some record of it?

Defendant—None whatever.

His Lordship—Very well.

Mr. Slade—Can you trace that $50?

Defendant—I can show you the receipt for—

Mr. Slade—You owed a bill for November?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade — What was the amount of the bill?

Defendant—$28.90.

Mr. Slade—When was it paid?

Defendant—On the 1st November. The bill for October was $26.32.

Mr. Slade—It seems to me that this system of receiving and crossing cashed cheques was initiated by your attorney?

Defendant—I can't say that.

Mr. Slade—When did Tang Kee first suggest it to you?

Defendant—He said that the man who used to cash the cheques before was dead.

His Lordship—When was it?

Defendant—I don't remember.

Mr. Slade—You've told us another thing—that you received $15 a month from Tang Kee from 1895 onwards. Have you anything wherewith to verify your statement?

Defendant—Nothing whatever.

Mr. Slade—Again your word is unsupported.

His Lordship—I wish you would tell us what this $15 was for.

Defendant—For rent. It is still paid.

Mr. Slade—If that's correct, you must have received some sort of an account from Tang Kee or the butchery showing that.

Defendant—I've no account whatever showing the $15.

His Lordship—It must appear in the Butchery Company's books. The business is still running.

Defendant—It might. I don't know.

Mr. Slade—Surely you must have receipts. Do you know what your income is?

Defendant—From my salary?

Mr. Slade—I don't want to pry into your private affairs. I simply want to know whether you keep any record.

Defendant—No record whatever.

Mr. Potter—Sometimes it's better not to (Laughter).

Mr. Slade—Surely, Mr. Howell, you must have seen inserted the following words "Goods supplied, less so much, balance $15."

Defendant—I don't read Chinese.

Mr. Slade—You've had, I believe, a good deal of experience of Chinese accounts?

Defendant—I know as much as anybody in this Court about Chinese accounts.

Mr. Slade—Don't you know, Mr. Howell, that if debit and credit are drawn up in Chinese accounts, they would invariably show the debit balance?

Defendant—No, I don't.

Mr. Slade—Among the witnesses you are going to call, is there anybody who is going to verify your statement?

Defendant—I know Tang Kee is going to be called but whether he's going to produce the books I cannot say.

Mr. Slade—Did not Mr. Tatam come back from America and remain permanently in the Colony?

Defendant—I don't know.

Mr. Slade—And did he not ask you for the accounts?

Mr. Potter—Tatam himself never suggested that.

Mr. Slade—He said he came back and interviewed Howell.

Mr. Potter—He never suggested that nor was he asked about it.

Defendant—I never saw him till December, 1899.

Mr. Slade—I put it to you that he saw you in January of that year and he pressed you for accounts.

Mr. Potter—I understood it all along that he was away for two years.

Mr. Slade—That exactly corresponds with the two years from January, 1897, to January, 1899.

His Lordship—What I understood the plaintiff to say was that he was away for two years and I fancy he said that when he came back he asked for accounts.

Mr. Potter—It's quite possible. Of course, I understand the position now, but everybody in this Court was under the impression that the first interview was on the 11th December, 1899.

Mr. Slade—You said that plaintiff was not entitled to the accounts.

Defendant—I did not. I made out a copy of the accounts and handed it to him. I employed Barker to make up the accounts.

Mr. Slade—What did you pay him—$25?

Defendant—I can't say. I see that in June I paid him $25.

His Lordship—What was this man Barker?

Defendant—He was accountant in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company. He used to come to my house and have drinks with me.

Mr. Slade—When was Barker first put on to the books?

Defendant—Within a month or so of the closing of the Hongkong Butchery Company.

Mr. Slade—Opening, you mean?

Defendant — Certainly not; closing.

At this point, Counsel asked witness to produce certain books in connection with the accounts. Defendant expressed his inability to do so.

Mr. Slade—But, Mr. Howell, you are a strictly methodical man and you must have kept accounts of the transactions. Surely you have a record?

Defendant—As far as the Hongkong Butchery Company is concerned, there was no entry one way or the other. One cheque counteracts another.

At this stage Counsel drew defendant's attention to certain bills sent to various parties and asked witness where he had obtained the material which led him to send the bills in question. After some time, defendant stated he could not give an explanation.

Mr. Slade—There are other books, I suggest, which have been suppressed which showed that the business of the company was an uncommonly profitable one?

Defendant—There are no other books, my Lord.

Mr. Slade—Then where did these materials come from?

Defendant—I have already said that if I had kept the books from day to day, I might have been able to tell you. All I can say is that I received the money from time to time and conscientiously paid it into the bank.

At this stage, defendant was asked whether he could answer a certain question with regard to the accounts.

Defendant—I shall be very pleased to do so if Counsel would suggest some way of doing it.

Mr. Slade (heatedly)—You see here some paying-in slips which you obtained through the bank and which you asked us to admit. In the same way that you have been able to obtain these paying-in slips, sir, you could have done the other thing.

Mr. Potter—There's no need for my friend to address Mr. Howell in that way. He can easily find out for himself what he wants to know.

Mr. Slade—The suggestion that he did not know how to go about it is what amused me.

After further cross-examination, his Lordship asked how many more witnesses there were.

Mr. Potter—Four, my Lord.

His Lordship—There are important questions in the case. How long will you take, Mr. Slade?

Mr. Slade—About an hour and a half.

Mr. Potter—Probably Mr. Howell will occupy the morning.

His Lordship—There's a common jury case on Monday.

Mr. Potter—I know, my Lord, but this case is more important than the common jury case. Both my friend and myself are engaged in the case.

His Lordship—The point is how are the jurors to be informed? Will the evening papers please mention that the jurors will not be required on Monday?

The reporters present in Court noted his Lordship's request and the case was adjourned till Monday at 11 a.m.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

[From "N.-C. Daily News."]

THE MANCHU DYNASTY.

Peking, April 3.—In response to a memorial from General Yin Chang, Minister for War, who is known to have favoured hostilities during the recent crisis, an extraordinary Edict has been issued, which gives the Prince Regent chief command of the Chinese forces. The Edict exhorts the Army to remember that the Manchus conquered China and have maintained control for three centuries owing to their military efficiency, which is China's only means of maintaining national and domestic security. An inspiriting message has been forwarded privately to the troops.

ATTACK ON A MISSIONARY.

Tsinanfu, April 2.—The Rev. John Murray of the American Presbyterian Mission of this city, was attacked on March 28 by ruffians a hundred li north of Tsinanfu, while on a journey. He was wounded in the head, arms and legs and was badly beaten. The cause of the attack was a silly story in connexion with the stealing of a child. Mr. Murray arrived last night under a Government escort and is now out of danger. His assailants have been arrested. The Chinese officials are showing themselves most solicitous and efficient.

Captain A. H. Milroy, who has been seriously ill for some time, has decided to take a trip down to Australia and New Zealand. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Milroy. The many friends of the genial sportsman will be glad to learn that he was able to be present at the closing cruise of the C. Y. C. on Sunday. He goes away with the good wishes of a host of friends.

K.C.C. DINNER.

AN ENJOYABLE FUNCTION.

The first public dinner to be held in the commodious premises of the Station Hotel, Kowloon, took place on Saturday night on the occasion of the Kowloon Cricket Club's annual function. About 50 people sat down to dinner. A prominent feature of the decorations was an arrangement of bats and wickets on a raised platform directly behind the Chairman, surmounted by the striking words "Our Peaceful Weapons," emblematic of the Club. Mr. Stewart, Chairman of the Club, presided in the unavoidable absence through indisposition of Sir Hormusjee Mody, President of the Club.

After full justice had been done to a sumptuous repast, which was rendered doubly attractive by an artistically got-up menu, the toast of "The King" was proposed by the Chairman and was responded to in the usual loyal manner.

Mr. John Lambert, Lloyd's Surveyor, proposed the toast of the "K.C.C." In doing so, he said he was sorry he was not more prepared for the task. The matter had been sprung upon him at the last moment but nothing gave him greater pleasure than to propose the health of the "K.C.C." As a member of a neighbouring Club and a Committee member of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club, he was glad to see the K.C.C. prospering. He had been informed by the Secretary that the Club was in a much better position than last year. He was not in a position to be posted in the statistics of the Club but all of them could not but feel gratified to hear the Secretary speak of the Club's better position. He would like to mention the fact that he felt sure that Dr. Swan, the founder of the Club, would have been very proud to have been present that evening, see the large gathering present and also to know of the success of the Club. The Club had of recent years made large strides and had been transformed from the old matshed in the corner to the handsome pavilion they had now erected. He would like to refer on behalf of the guests to the children's sports which were held on every New Year's Day. Everybody was indebted to the Club for the manner in which the sports were conducted, and the giving of prizes. He would also like to refer to the patronage for which the Club was indebted to His Excellency the Governor and Sir Hormusjee Mody. The latter, he understood, was unable to be present through indisposition. He was sure they all wished that Sir Hormusjee would be restored to health and be spared for many years to come (Applause).

The Chairman said that Mr. Lambert had referred to Sir Hormusjee's absence and it was therefore only right for him to read a letter received by him from Sir Hormusjee regretting his inability to be present and wishing success to the Club. He was sure he was voicing the sentiments of everybody present when he said how deeply they all regretted Sir Hormusjee's absence. The Club had been successful, if not in winning the League, at least for the great interest members took in the Club. During the coming year, he hoped the Club's name would appear on top of the winning shield. The speaker referred to tennis and expressed his great hopes that this year he would be called forward to take the prizes. In the matter of the children's sports, they were, undoubtedly a source of trouble to the Club but it gave them great pleasure to entertain such a large number of the little ones.

Mr. Choo submitted the toast of "Other Clubs." The speaker pointed out the fact that they had always received assistance from the Kowloon Bowling Green Club. The latter assisted them in every way possible. The K.C.C. generally managed to beat them at bowling (Laughter) but they had never yet tackled them at cricket. He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Duncan.

Mr. Duncan, in the course of a happy little speech, said that he rose to speak with a nervous feeling and a certain amount of diffidence. He felt nervous because he did not feel he would be able to do justice to the task entrusted him and diffident because, other clubs being present, he could not see why the Kowloon Bowling Green Club in particular should be asked to reply. Clubs were the mainstay of life in the Far East (Hear, hear). Life was composed of smiles and tears, sunshine and rain, shadows and bright lining to the clouds. The tears generally came in the course of the day's work. But the tears became dried and the clouds dispersed when they met together and fraternized as they did that evening. The Clubs in Hongkong were well supported by the youth of the Colony. The old sport of cricket was supported by almost every Englishman the world over and the Englishmen of the Colony were not behind in that manner. That was where his nervousness came in (Laughter)—he feared he might forget to say what he wanted to say at the right moment and he would probably get up at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning and feel inclined to kick himself for not remembering what he had to say (Laughter). He hoped that the K. C. C. and the Kowloon Bowling Green Club would one day be removed and become one, where they could have everything in common. That day was fast approaching (Applause).

At this stage of the evening's proceedings, Messrs. Harvey and Shroff, retired Chairman and Treasurer, respectively, of the Club, were presented with a smoking set and a handsome pair of binoculars, in appreciation of the services rendered to the Club. The recipients acknowledged the gifts in suitable terms.

The toast of "Our Guests" was proposed during the evening and responded to by Mr. G. T. Lloyd. Later in the evening, Mr. Pond submitted the health of the Chairman in a humorous vein, the toast being enthusiastically received.

Songs and recitations interspersed the evening's programme, those obliging including Messrs. Oxberry, Annesley, Jeffries, Harvey and Stewart.

A most pleasant evening was brought to a close about the hour of midnight.

HONGKONG LADIES' RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The scores to date at the shoot of the Hongkong Ladies' Rifle Association are as follows:—

No. 1 Competition. Fifty Yards Scratch:—

Mrs. Wrigley	1 (31)
Mrs. Jackman	2 (31)
Mrs. L. G. Bird	3 (30)

No. 2. Competition. Fifty Yards Handicap:—

Mrs. Dennys	1 (35)
Miss Benbow	2 (35)
Mrs. Walker	3 (35)

No. 3 Competition. Seventy Five Yards. Scratch:—

Mrs Bird	1 (31)
Mrs. Keswick	2 (30)
Mrs. Dennys	3 (30)

No. 4 Competition, Seventy Five Yards, Handicap:

Mrs. Wrigley	1 (34)
Mrs. Lyddon	2 (34)
Mrs. Walker	3 (34)

No. 5 Competition. Two Minutes, Fifty Yards, Scratch:

Miss Benbow	1 (71)
Miss Seth	2 (70)
Mrs. Keswick	3 (65)

No. 6 Competition, Scratch, Aggregate:—

Miss M. Loureiro	1 (127)
Mrs. L. G. Bird	2 (120)
Mrs. Wrigley	3 (120)

No. 7 Competition, Jockey Club Challenge Cup.

Miss M. Loureiro	1 (34)

No. 8 Competition, Highest Number Bullseyes scored during meeting:—

Miss M. Loureiro	1 (31)
Mrs. L. G. Bird	2 (26)
Mrs. Wrigley	3 (23)

No. 10 Competition, The O'Gorman Cup, Fifty and Seventy-five yards:

Mrs. Bird	1 (64)

No. 12 Competition, Slow and Rapid:

Miss Loureiro	1 (44)
Miss Benbow	2 (44)
Mrs. Keswick	3 (41)

The Consolation shoot had not been fired off before we went to press.

The prizegiving took place at 4.30 p.m., in the presence of a large number of spectators. Mrs. Anderson undertook the pleasant duty.

The meeting has shown that our fair markswomen possess a proficiency which might well be the envy of the more warlike sex.

THE BIG BANK FAILURE.

DETAILS OF LATEST SHANGHAI SMASH.

The Nee Shou-yuan Bank, established by H. E. Li Ching-tsou (a very close relation to the late Li Hung-chang), and Zai (formerly compradore of a well-known British Bank) the former having seven-tenths of the shares and the latter three-tenths, which recently failed at Shanghai as already reported by us, had its premises first situated at Nanking and Wuhu.

On account of the recent stringency of the money market in Shanghai, the Bank was often short of money and was several times relieved and supported by the Communications Bank (established by the Board of Posts and Communications). The Nee Shou-yuan Bank is now involved in bankruptcy in consequence of the vigorous investigations of the officials of the Communications Bank who found it insolvent.

On the 21st ult. its branches at Tientsin and Peking suspended payment.

A native high-class restaurant, named Ya Hsu-yuan, situated in Chekiang Road, Shanghai, (established by Tientsin merchants), on receiving news from Tientsin that the northern branches were bankrupt, sent their representatives to the Nee Shou-yuan Bank to withdraw their deposits, but the manager of that bank inquired why they wanted to take out their money when there were so many transactions going on between them in past years. They then asked the manager if he was not informed of the bankruptcy in the North, and if he was, whether the bank in Shanghai took any steps to safeguard the interests of its patrons.

Ting Chia-erh, manager of that bank, then requested Mr. Pao Yi, Magistrate of the Mixed Court, to have him arrested, but Mr. Pao Yi replied that he had no power to try this case, and took the manager with him to the Shanghai Taotai's yamen to ask instructions how to deal with the case.

Messrs. Kwoi Chun, Tien Pao-yung and Sun-Keng-ma, Magistrates of the native city and Mixed Court, respectively, were appointed by the Shanghai Taotai to investigate the accounts of that Bank; as a result of their investigations, they found that it possessed only seven thousand taels in cash. All the accounts books have been sent to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

It is reported that the liabilities amount to over ten million taels and that the majority of the depositors are Chinese officials; no foreigners are involved.

THE PLAGUE.

Moukden, 17th March—The American Delegates are here and are holding important postmortem examinations at the plague hospital, and although everything is done with all possible care and reverence, stories are beginning to go round and the people are a little uneasy. The native press should do its duty at this time and see that no misleading stories are circulated through its medium. It might enlighten the populace greatly, and set their minds at rest, by telling the simple truth, and saying that many remedies, which now save thousands of lives, were only found out after much careful research. For example, China now enjoys the benefits of smallpox vaccine, which saves millions of her people, and the bubonic germs having been discovered a remedy was soon found.

The Chinese Government, with praiseworthy promptitude, invited the best plague scientists to meet in this city, and now this must not be spoiled by any foolishness on the part of the people who have, on the whole, behaved so well, hitherto, during this crisis, despite the attempts of some secret agents to stir up trouble, so as to involve the officials, who were striving hard to save their people.

The death-rate yesterday was only four.—"China Gazette."

Lady Lugard proceeds on a visit to Japan on May the 26th, and, accompanied by His Excellency the Governor, will probably attend the Delhi Durbar during the Coronation festivities in India.

H.S.H. PRINCE LEOPOLD OF BATTENBERG.

Sunday by the s.s. Empire there arrived in Hongkong, His Serene Highness Prince Leopold of Battenberg. Prince Leopold is only 22 years of age but for the last five years he has been engaged in a severe struggle against ill health. Unfortunately His Serene Highness had not improved on his way up from Australia, and on arrival in Hongkong his medical advisers declared it inadvisable that he should go ashore. It had been arranged that if all was well he should stay at Government House. Instead of that, it has now been decided that he travel right on to Japan.

Probably, too, the miserable weather we are experiencing in the Colony had something to do with the change of arrangements at the last moment. However, the young Prince was visited on board the steamer by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard, who expressed their regret at His Serene Highness' inability to visit Government House.

Prince Leopold is a cousin of His Majesty King George V. of England, and a brother of Queen Victoria of Spain. He was first stricken with illness just as he had been commissioned in the British army, and looked forward to a military career which would add lustre to the great renown which the House of Battenberg has already won through generations of valiant service. Since then he has roamed the world, and has had the services of skilful and faithful officials, in an effort to regain his health. The Prince's extended visit to Australia had not unfortunately brought the relief that he and his physicians expected, and he did not leave the steamer in Manila either.

In Manila, a representative of the United States Marine Hospital Service called on board the Empire to proffer the services of his corps, and was graciously received by His Highness, who in declining thanked him for the courtesy, and stated that he was being attended by his private physician.

The British and Spanish consuls general, in Manila, however, with representatives of the local government called officially on Prince Leopold and welcomed him to the port, expressing the regrets of the people of Manila that he would not be able to stand the strain of the series of entertainments planned for him.

LAWN TENNIS.

Further games of tennis were played Friday afternoon on the Cricket Ground in connection with the tournament and resulted as follows:—

Event "A" Championship.

Captain G. A. Addison R. E., beat C. H. Rose, 6-2; 6-2; 4-6; 6-4.

C. T. Hose beat Major F. J. Hunter, A. O. D., 6-3; 8-6; 3-6; 6-4.

Event "B" Single Handicap "A" Class.

A. R. Fisher R. N. (owes 30) beat H. Griffin (owes 15), 6-2; 6-3.

Event "B" Single Handicap B. Class.

C. B. Johnson (owes 15) beat Lieut. Collis Brown, K.O.Y.L.I., 6—3; 0—6; 6—3.

Doubles Handicap A. Class.

Dr. Aubrey and A. C. E. Elborough (owes 15) beat C. Willson and E. R. Hallifax (owes 30), 6—3; 3—6; 6—1.

R. F. C. Hedgeland and A. R. Sutherland (owes 30) beat Lieut.-Col. Stoopolo and Captain Addison (owes 30), 6—1; 6—4.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE COMPETITION.

In the House of Commons on the 8th ultimo, Mr. Hunt asked the Prime Minister whether in view of the fact that Japan and China were now manufacturing nations and were increasing the number and size of their manufacturing industries every year, and that their people would work on the average for a few pence a day, he proposed to take steps to protect our own working people and their wages from the importation of competing goods made by that cheap yellow labour?

Mr. Booth: May I ask whether the Japanese do not consider themselves to be a brown race and not a yellow race?

Mr. Asquith: The answer to the question on the paper is in the negative.

SUPREME COURT.

HONGKONG BUTCHERY CASE.

Before his Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Piggott, at the Supreme Court Monday morning, the case was resumed in which John Tatam, runner of the King Edward Hotel, is seeking for the taking of accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Hongkong Butchery Company since 24th September, 1896, and for further or other relief. Mr. M. W. Slade, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, was for the defendant.

Defendant's cross-examination was continued.

Mr. Slade—You told us that on November 17th, 1904, you paid in $143.80.

Defendant—Do you mean No. 1 or No. 2 account?

Mr. Slade—No. 1 I think.

Defendant—Yes, I did.

Mr. Slade—You believed that they were crossed cheques for the Butchery Company?

Defendant—I didn't say that. I said I guessed so.

Mr. Slade—Exactly. You believed so.

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—And on that account you paid $120 the next day?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade — We've obtained some of the books from the bank. On those books appear the names Jones, Claret and Moss.

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Is Claret the name of a person.

Defendant—Yes, he was employed in the Electric Light Company.

Mr. Slade—Did he have an account with the Hongkong Butchery Company?

Defendant—Yes, he took goods and paid cheques. He was running a mess for the Electric Company.

His Lordship—With regard to this particular question, your remark can only be considered a suggestion.

Proceeding, his Lordship said on checking the figures he found them correct.

Mr. Slade—Oh, yes, I'm very glad to have them verified. Unfortunately, we haven't got the other slips. Frankly, I may say that in this case we have received no assistance from the other side.

Mr. Potter—Oh!

Mr. Slade—They've got all the dates. We've got nothing at all.

His Lordship—There's still time.

Mr. Slade—Yes, my Lord. (To defendant)—Another thing I asked you was that payments were made to the Hongkong Butchery after January 1st, 1897. I see by a slip here that there was a cheque marked Armstrong. Was that in payment of the Butchery account?

Defendant—No.

Mr. Slade—Butter was imported for the Butchery?

Defendant—Yes, but the butter was bad, not being of the quality required.

Mr. Slade—Did you put in a claim against the suppliers?

Defendant—No.

Mr. Slade—You obtained the butter from Johnson?

Defendant—No, through Johnson.

Mr. Slade—You lost $400 on the butter?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Did you take any steps to recover that from anybody?

Defendant—No, Johnson departed for San Francisco shortly afterwards.

Mr. Slade—Look at that letter. Do you mean to say that that was not an order on the Hongkong Butchery Company.

Defendant—I say it was not an order on the Hongkong Butchery Company.

Mr. Slade—Although it's the same man who supplied butter to the Butchery before?

Defendant—Yes.

His Lordship—I gathered from the letter to Johnson that it was to enable him to obtain 5 per cent. discount.

Defendant—That's so.

His Lordship—Then if that was done it was done once for all?

Defendant—No, it was done every time.

His Lordship—The order of September, 1907, was a definite order.

Defendant—Yes.

His Lordship—In September, 1907, you wrote a letter for the Butchery Company sending an order?

Defendant—I was asked to write the letter.

His Lordship—Was the letter written at the same time that Tang Kee ordered the butter or what?

Mr. Slade—At the foot of the letter you gave him a code. If it was not a bogus order giving Johnson 5 per cent. discount, you would not have taken the trouble of specifying a code?

Defendant—Yes, I did do it.

Mr. Slade—If it was merely a business letter, why did you introduce a personal element? The way the letter is worded is supplying "us", and draw on "me" personally for the amount.

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—That's the wording of it?

Defendant—Yes, I see that's the wording of it.

Mr. Slade—Don't you remember that the Hongkong Butchery Company did sell butter got from America?

Defendant—I know nothing at all.

Mr. Slade—This advertisement is copied from the "Hongkong Telegraph" of 22nd November, 1897. I haven't got a copy but it can be verified at the City Hall. It would appear just about the time that the butter would be imported. The advertisement read "Just landed from s.s. "China" American butter, $1.60 per roll." Has that any connection with Johnson?

Defendant—I don't know.

His Lordship—It seems to me, Mr. Howell, it has some connection with Johnson.

Defendant—Very probably.

At this point, Counsel proceeded to read another advertisement appearing in the "Hongkong Telegraph" of the 10th September, 1904, regarding the sailing of the s.s. "China." (To defendant)—Johnson would be on board at the time?

Defendant—Yes, he was steward on the ship.

Mr. Slade—At that time a letter must have been handed to him?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade (reads letter)—After that, do you still assert that it was a purely formal letter?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—And not an illicit letter purporting to give him 5 per cent. discount?

Defendant—No.

Mr. Slade—The letter was not improper?

Defendant—It wasn't improper. Johnson was a broker and he was entitled to the discount.

Mr. Slade — What was the amount of the commission paid by Yuen Chung up to Dec., 1896?

Defendant—This is taken from a book which shows the commissions from month to month. From that date there was no further commission. Commissions were paid from month to month up to the end of August. From that date there were no commissions.

Mr. Slade—Will you turn up the cash-book?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Look up the commission for January.

Defendant did so and after a moment said—Your question is misleading.

Mr. Slade—Is it?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Slade—Perhaps you might say why?

Defendant—If the books had been kept properly I would be able to show you in a moment. The total amount of the commissions is $328.15.

Mr. Slade—That's entered in December?

Defendant—Which would be paid in January.

Mr. Slade—That's for sales. How about commission?

Defendant—I cannot say. I can merely guess. Had these books been kept properly as they should have been, I would be able to tell you in a moment.

Mr. Slade—There's the book. Is any commission entered?

Defendant—As far as I can see, there's no commission up to the end of February.

Mr. Slade—Turn to March. Is there any commission entered for February?

Defendant—Yes, $128 odd. On March 18th, I see $476.41 was paid and $300, making a total of $776, but it is not stated what the amounts are for. They were paid in March by Yuen Chung.

Mr. Slade—Turn up Feb. and see if Yuen Chung paid you anything?

Defendant—Yes, the money for February was paid in March.

Mr. Slade—Then entered in the cash-book when the amount was paid?

Defendant—I presume so.

Mr. Slade—Exactly. It was paid to you?

Defendant—It was not paid to me. It was paid to Tatam.

Mr. Slade—Very well, it was paid to the Butchery Company. Then you have commission for February amounting to $180.20. It's curious none of these figures seem to correspond!

Defendant—They can't. It's impossible.

His Lordship—Why?

Defendant—We are working backwards. Mr. Slade is putting a month back instead of working on the books themselves. He mixes up the accounts.

Mr. Slade—What was the commission for July?

Defendant—$134.66.

His Lordship—And sales?

Defendant—Nil.

Mr. Slade—There are no entries for sales?

Defendant—No.

Mr. Slade—When cheques were not paid, how were the amounts paid?

Defendant—I cannot say. I never paid in notes. These accounts were drawn up after the business was closed and after I had left.

Mr. Slade—Surely you can give some explanation.

Defendant—I tell you I can't explain. Sometimes the accounts were paid from vouchers.

His Lordship—Then you do know something about it.

Defendant—I know nothing about it.

Mr. Slade—But you said just now that the amounts were paid from vouchers.

Defendant's answer was inaudible.

Mr. Slade—Do you mean to say that you received all these odd sums and you kept no accounts of them whatever?

Defendant—I kept memos.

Mr. Slade—The books were in your house and under your charge.

Defendant—They were under my charge inasmuch as I handed them over to Barker to properly make up the accounts.

Mr. Slade—Why did you not properly enter the accounts into the Butchery books?

Defendant—I can't say.

Mr. Slade—It has been shown conclusively from the accounts that the amounts were not only paid but you were month by month consistently over-paid.

Mr. Potter—You think that, do you?

Defendant—I'm not a competent accountant.

Mr. Slade—Not a competent accountant?

Defendant—I'm sorry I'm not.

Mr. Potter—He doesn't profess to be a competent accountant.

Mr. Slade—Neither do I.

Mr. Potter—It would be rather difficult to be a competent accountant without a long training, I should imagine.

Mr. Slade—I don't quite understand how you sometimes paid more than you received and sometimes less than you received.

Mr. Potter—My friend has not asked him whether he received the amounts.

Mr. Slade—I believe he has admitted it.

Mr. Potter—My friend has carefully refrained from asking him.

Mr. Slade—I'm sure I'm giving Mr. Howell every opportunity to give an explanation.

Mr. Potter—Your Lordship must see the way the question is being put to him: You received the money, you received more and so forth?

Defendant—I received nothing. I cannot explain the accounts. Tatam kept the books and he is the only man who can explain the figures.

His Lordship—Do I understand you to mean that you took no care whatever of the accounts?

Defendant—I took the money and when he wanted money I paid him by cheque.

His Lordship—I understood you to say that you took monthly overhauls?

Defendant—I found that something was wrong.

His Lordship—Did you take any steps?

Defendant—I called a meeting in December.

Mr. Slade—This was your house-account?

Defendant—But this is a thing which Tatam had. This cash-book was not made up at the time.

Mr. Slade—But there must have been some accounts made up to show the accounts in June.

Defendant—They were not seen by me.

Mr. Slade—Are you such an innocent person that you allowed these large accounts to be at the mercy of the people without making any attempt whatsoever to control them? You had only a few figures to check and you did not even take the trouble of investigating them?

His Lordship—Mr. Howell, these accounts which have been investigated now show differences and discrepancies. If you had investigated them, they would have shown the same discrepancies.

Defendant—They may have.

Mr. Slade—You mean to say that though Barker worked in your house, he did not inquire of you in case of difficulty?

Defendant—I can't remember. I was out during the day, and defendant worked on the books.

Mr. Slade—I thought you had said that he came after working hours?

Defendant—He was employed by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company and worked at Aberdeen. He would sometimes come to see me in the morning and sometimes at night.

Mr. Slade—You never checked the accounts?

Defendant—I employed Barker to do that.

Continuing, defendant said he had paid every cent he had received into the Bank.

Mr. Slade—But surely cash in hand clearly is not money paid into the Bank?

Defendant—I cannot explain.

At a later stage of the proceedings, witness informed the Court that some months ago, he suggested to Mr. Gardiner that all the books should be handed over either to Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Matthews or Messrs. Percy Smith, Fleming and Seth and he would be prepared to abide by their decision.

Mr. Slade—Is that so, Mr. Gardiner?

Mr. Gardiner—Yes.

Mr. Slade—You never at any time had the curiosity to check these accounts?

Defendant—Never.

After further cross-examination, the case was adjourned till 10.30 a.m. to-morrow.

U.S. SQUADRON COMING.

The flagship Saratoga is having battle practice, and when it is concluded the squadron under Rear Admiral Hubbard will begin preparations for the northern cruise, says the "Manila Times." It is expected the cruiser squadron will depart about April 10 and Hongkong will be the first port of call. The customary cruise will be made in Chinese and Japanese waters, taking ships and men into northern climes during the hot season in the Philippines.

The destroyer flotilla is also to have an extended cruise this summer. It will first go through the southern islands and in midsummer head north on a trip that will include the chief ports of the China coast and visits to Port Arthur, Vladivostock and Hakodate. The Nanshan will accompany the destroyers throughout the summer.

BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP.

PITT V. GEARY.

Last week the "Telegraph" promised to present a small trophy for competition if Sergt. Pitt (the present amateur champion of Hongkong) were to meet Corporal Geary of the K.O.Y.L.I. in a game.

We are now informed that the match has been arranged, 1000 up, and it is proposed to play the first 500 on Wednesday week, at the Soldiers' Club, and 500 on the following night.

Considerable interest is being taken in this match as Pitt is a player who has had a good deal of experience, has skill, and never loses "heart." Geary is a good and skilful player, and worthy of any amateur's "steel."

YACHTING.

CORINTHIANS CLOSING CRUISE.

POOR SAILING ON SUNDAY.

For the first time for several years the Corinthian Yacht Club held its closing cruise off the Club House, and the spectators on Sunday were numerous in consequence.

The climatic conditions from the yachtsman's point of view were not ideal. It was still and very warm and in consequence racing was not very interesting. However, the day passed off very pleasantly, and the array of prizes was emphatic evidence of the strength of the club and the interest taken by members in the various competitions.

The officials were:—Commodore Dr. F. Clark; Vice-Commodore, Mr. G. G. Wood; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. P. Phillips; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Alex. P. Storrie; Hon. Asst. Secretary, Mr. James Spittles; Official Measurer; Mr. C. J. Cooke; Deputy Measurers, Messrs. V. Goulbourn and H. Coombs; Official Members, Messrs. J. Reidie, E. F. Gibson and James Craik, A. A. H. Milroy and J. M. Irving; Judges: Messrs. G. G. Wood, A. A. H. Milroy, Alex. Rodger, J. Reidie and F. H. Howell; Clerks of Course: Messrs. H. Coombs, J. M. Irving and V. Goulbourn; Motor Boat Handicappers: Messrs J. Burn, J. Haxton, C. Bond, and Jas. H. Taggart; Starters, Messrs E. F. Gibson, James Craik, and W. Withers; Time Keepers; Messrs J. M. Irving and G. England; Stewards; Messrs James Spittles, A. D. Gee, A. E. Feslier, C. J. Cooke, R. P. Phillips, and E. Orchard.

The events resulted as follows:—

Bolilios Cup, open to Hayward Hays' design boats only.

Course—Starting off Club House from E. to W. around Mark Boat moored off Police Pier (Starboard), Cust Rock (Starboard) Meyers E. Buoy (Starboard) across Starting line E. to W. between Flagstaff and Mark boat. Twice Round.

1, White Rose, sailed by Mr. Gow. Time of finish—12h. 36m.

Warren Memorial Cup, open to Gael class only. Same course as previous race.

1, Dorothy, sailed by Mr. Witchell. Time—12h. 35m. 14s.

Cam Cup: 1, Dorothy, Mr. Witchell. Time—11h. 50s.

Motor Boat Race. Open to visitors or non boat-owning members.

1, Sonya, Mr. Withers: 2, Hermes, Mr. Marshall.

Ladies' Handicap Class Race: 1, Corrinne sailed by Mrs. Mackay; 2, Daisy, sailed by Miss, Witzky.

Ladies' Heyward Hays' race: 1, White Rose, sailed by Mrs. Pierpont; 2, Dawn, sailed by Mrs. Bonnas.

Ladies' Gael Class: 1, Dorothy sailed by Miss Nan Rodger; 2 Asthore, sailed by Miss Dorothy Rodger.

Ladies' Motor Boat Race: 1, Britannia, sailed by Mrs. Thornhill; 2, Hermes sailed by Mrs. Lean.

Handicap Class Race: 1, Daisy, sailed by Mr. Roseman.

At the conclusion of the sports Mrs. Clark, wife of the Commodore, presented the prizes.

Mr. G. G. Wood, Vice-Commodore, thanked Mrs. Clark on behalf of members for presenting the prizes, as she had done in previous years. She was going home shortly, and the speaker was sure that she had the Club's best wishes for a safe journey, a happy time at home and a speedy return so that she might be present at the Corinthians opening cruise, and again present the prizes at the closing cruise. He thanked her very much for her attendance, and on behalf of the committee presented her with a handsome pair of vases and a rose bowl as a mark of appreciation of her services to the Club. (Applause.)

Mrs. Clark, in accepting the gifts, said she understood that giving prizes away was always a dull affair except to the people who won them. She appreciated all the kind things that had been said about her, and imagined they had been said because the Club had such a good commodore, whereas she was only the commodoress. It was really too good to present her with such handsome prizes for which she had done nothing except that which was a pleasure to her to do. She always felt it an honour to attend at the Club and give away what did not belong to her.

The proceedings ended with cheers for Mrs. Clark, the Commodore and the Ladies.

SMOKING CONCERT.

A smoking concert took place at the C.Y.C. on Saturday evening, the Commodore presiding. Several local gentlemen contributed to the evening's programme. The principal feature was the presentation of a handsome clock, compass and barometer, in a leather case, to Mr. G. G. Wood (vice-commodore). It bears the following inscription:—"Presented to G. G. Wood, Esq., Vice Commodore of the C.Y.C., by the members, as a mark of esteem. Hongkong, 8th April, 1911." Dr. Clark, in a very happy speech, said that they all knew there were some ships which were lucky from the day they were launched to the day when they fell apart, or their plates were so completely damaged that not even the Hongkong Dock Company could repair them (laughter). He thought they could claim that the ship of the C.Y.C had fallen under a lucky star, and that the luck had followed it to the present day. They would all agree, however, that the luckiest day of the Club was the day when they voted their Vice-Commodore, Mr. Wood, to take a hand in the steering of the craft (applause). Mr. Wood, in the course of a few days, was going home, and on behalf of the members of the Corinthian Yacht Club he had very great pleasure in asking him to accept a small souvenir as a mark of the high esteem in which they all held Mr. Wood. He was going to London, said Dr. Clark, which had certain dangers, so they said, for bachelors (laughter). They were offering Mr. Wood a clock so that he would be able to get home at the proper time, a compass so that he could steer a straight course, and an aeronoid barometer so that he might be warned in good time for any squalls (laughter and applause).

Mr. Wood, in acknowledging the gift, spoke of the pleasant surprise he had had, and said he did not know what he had done to deserve such "fuss" (laughter). What he had done for the Club had been a pleasure and a pastime, but at all times he had the interest of the C.Y.C. at heart, and would continue to do so. He thanked them all very much for the present. (Applause).

During the evening the health of the Vice Commodore was submitted by Mr. G. T. Lloyd, and duly acknowledged.

Mr. J. H. Taggart proposed the health of Mr. Reidie, who had worked hard during the season in the interests of the club. The toast was most enthusiastically honoured.

INTERCLUB BOWLING MATCH.

The final result of this match was that the German teams won by 587 points. The full scores follow:—

J. Hooper	1454
F. Matson	1090
E. P. H. Lang	1102
C. H. Gale	1218
O. Wagner	1508
R. Seydler	1396
C. Weisinger	1264
H. Van Zuyler	1374
P. W. Goldring	1272
S. P. Warbrook	1437
P. R. Wolff	1526
H. Humphreys	1371
O. Meyer	1451
F. Martin	1472
E. Haaseman	1285
F. Holdt	1407
German Team	11147
British "	10560
Won by	587

Mr. P. R. Wolff was top scorer, Messrs. Wagner and Martin being the second and third men.

Mr. L. Kennard Davis, a well-known and old resident in Hongkong, has just taken charge of the Hongkong branch of the North China Insurance Company, Limited.

SPORT.

THE V.R.C. MEETING.

The fourteenth athletic meeting of the V.R.C., held under the laws of the A.A.A., took place Saturday at Happy Valley. The patrons were His Excellency Sir F. Lugard, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., Vice-Admiral Sir A. L. Winsloe, K.C.B., C.V.O., C.M.G., H.E. Major-General C. A. Anderson, C.B., Commodore C. J. Eyres, R.N.

The Judges were Messrs. W. Armstrong, W. A. Crake, T. E. Pearce, H. L. O. Garrett, R. L. Bridger, A. McKirdy, F. A. Mackintosh, A. Rodger, J. Rodger, Dr. C. Forsyth, A. N. Kemp. Referee: Mr. G. A. Caldwell. Clerks of the Course: Messrs. L. E. Lammert, A. E. Dunrich, R. C. Witchell, A. Charlton, G. W. Avenell. Starters: Messrs. A. R. Sutherland, J. H. Mead. Time-keepers: Messrs. T. Meek, T. Chee, C. Bunje. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. A. Claxton. Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. Lammert.

The weather was most favourable, and the attendance large. The Band of the 8th Rajputs favoured with selections. The results were as follow:—

Long Jump (Three Tries)
E. Dillner 1 (18 ft., 5 in.)
120 Yards Flat Race (Handicap)
1st Heat.

H. L. O. Garrett	1
I. L. Goldenberg	2

Time: 13 1.5 secs.
Second Heat.

J. F. Castro	1
A. M. Suffiad	2

Time: 12 2.5 secs.
High Jump—(Three tries).
No entries.
100 yards Flat Race.—(Challenge Cup.)—Presented by Dr. F. H. Kew. To be won three years before becoming the property of a competitor.
1st Heat.

J. F. Castro	1
A. M. Suffiad	2

2nd Heat.

H. L. O. Garrett	1
E. Dillner	2

Time: 10 1.5 secs.
Boys' Race, 100 Yards (handicap). Open to all boys between the ages of 6 and 10. Handicap at the post, ages to be stated on entry.

Rozario	1
D. Castro	2

Team Race.—(200 Yards.)—Teams of 4.
Lusitano Recreation Club 1.
Girls Race (80 yards, handicap). Open to girls between the ages of 6 and 10.

Silva	1
Hanson	2

120 yards Final.

J. F. Castro	1
H. L. O. Garrett	2

Time: 10 2.5 sec.
120 Yards Final.

J. F. Castro	1
E. Dillner	2

Time: 12.1-5s.
Bicycle Race. — Two miles (handicap), start in saddle.

D. Macrae	1
A. H. Carroll	2

Time: 6min. 13 sec.
120 Yards Hurdle Race.—(10 flights.)

A. C. Leith	1
A. A. Claxton	2

Time: 20 sec.
Half-mile Flat Race.—Open to soldiers, sailors and police.

Private Best (R.E.)	1
Private Rickard (K.O.Y.L.I.)	2

Time: 2 min. 11 1.5 sec.
220 Yards Flat Race (handicap).

J. F. Castro	1
Aitchieson	2

Time: 23 4.5 sec.

COMMERCIAL.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs E. S. Kadoorie report:—Business since last report has been on a somewhat larger scale, and although transactions have been slightly more numerous, the market cannot be described as a free one.

Rubber.—The price of fine hard Para has not materially altered since last quoted, to-day's price being 5s 11d as against 6s 2d a week ago. The London share market would appear to be fairly steady, a considerable number of shares having been sold to London during the week.

Singapore share market continues dull.

The Deutsche Bank announces that for the year 1910 the gross profits amounted to £3,091,270, exclusive of £58,298 brought forward.

SUPREME COURT.

HONGKONG BUTCHERY CASE.

EUROPEAN ACCOUNTANT'S EVIDENCE.

Before his Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Piggott, at the Supreme Court Tuesday morning, the case was resumed in which John Tatam, runner of the King Edward Hotel, is seeking for the taking of accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Hongkong Butchery Company since 24th September, 1890, and for further or other relief. Mr. M. W. Slade, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, was for the defendant.

Defendant was again called into the box.

Mr. Potter— You were asked early in your cross-examination to account for the sudden increase in your salary. Will you explain to his Lordship how that increase was effected? My friend, your Lordship will remember, was making a point of it.

Defendant—Part of it was in connection with running the sweeps in the United Club, which left a surplus. There's no other reason for the increase in my income. In January I went up to Canton and on my return to the Colony I found the Hongkong Butchery Company closed.

Mr. Potter—Is there any other reason to account for the increase?

Defendant—I also received money in Canton through my agent named Meyers which I sent to Shanghai through me.

Continuing, defendant referred to a lottery ticket which won $1,700.

Mr. Potter—After Yuen Ching's system came into operation, Tatam took in the slips and handed them to you?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Potter—Yesterday, a lot of items were put to you and certain discrepancies were pointed out?

Defendant—Yes.

Counsel informed his Lordship that what he wished to point out was the similarity of the sum paid into the bank and Tatam's slip.

(To defendant)—Tatam said that the number of customers increased by leaps and bounds. Had you ever taken the trouble of finding out the number of customers?

At this point, witness proceeded to enumerate the number of customers on the various dates in question.

Mr. Potter—The customers don't seem to me to have increased by leaps and bounds. Would you regard the sale of the Butchery at $200 a fair price?

Defendant—Yes.

Mr. Potter—How long was the business closed before it was re-opened?

Defendant—I see it was re-opened on the 15th January.

Mr. Potter—So that customers had to go elsewhere to buy their meat during the time the business was closed?

Defendant—Yes.

G. A. Watkins was called into the box.

Mr. Slade—Before we take witness' evidence, I would like to have Mr. Howell in the box. Absolutely new information have been received by us five minutes ago. I will ask permission to call Howell into the box and, if necessary, his evidence will be supported by Watkins.

Mr. Potter—It's a rather peculiar application to make, my Lord. My friend should tell us.

His Lordship—He can't tell me.

Mr. Potter—He can tell me.

At this point Mr. Slade engaged in conversation with Mr. Potter.

Mr. Potter—It's for your Lordship to decide.

His Lordship—I thought I saw a frown in your eyes! (Laughter).

Mr. Potter—I was merely perspiring, my Lord! (Laughter). It's rather annoying to have your case broken into suddenly. Of course, if your Lordship is influenced by my smiles and frowns, I shall only be too happy (Laughter).

Mr. Slade—Is it true that you have, since the closing of the Butchery in 1890, received orders for meat in the Registry of the Supreme Court?

Defendant—I might have done so. I cannot say. I know that Mr. Seth, the former Registrar, was a customer of ours and frequently asked me to send meat to him to Macao.

Mr. Slade—I put it to you that it was supposed by many people in the Colony that the stalls in the Butchery were yours. They sent you orders pretty frequently?

Defendant—I know that the people knew that I was connected with the Butchery. Even now, people send me orders for meat and I send them along to the Butchery.

Mr. Slade—You took no steps whatsoever to disabuse their minds?

Defendant—I took no steps one way or the other; I wanted to keep as quiet as possible. Being a Government servant, I knew I was acting against Government regulations and I wished to keep the matter as quiet as possible.

Mr. Potter—That's my friend's important evidence.

G. A. Watkins was called into the box.

Mr. Potter—You are manager of Watkins' Dispensary?

Witness—Yes.

You know Mr. Howell?—Yes, he's a friend of mine.

Do you remember having a conversation with Mr. Howell in January, 1897, about the Butchery?—Yes.

You know Tatam?—Yes.

You were appointed his attorney some time in January, 1897?—Yes (power of attorney produced in Court).

It is agreed that on the 5th January, Tatam left on board the "Pelican" as purser. I believe you assisted in securing him the post of purser?—Yes.

Is it true that you and Mr. Howell conspired together to get Tatam out of the Colony?—It's absolutely false.

Acting under the instructions of Tatam, you inserted an advertisement.—In the "Hongkong Telegraph," I believe.

Calling in all the debts?—Yes.

What was the business sold for?—$200 for the business, furniture and goodwill.

Why was the business sold for $200?—Because that was the only price that could be obtained for it and I wanted to clear my debts. The business was sold to Tang Kee.

To whom was the money paid?

It was either paid into the Bank or to Howell, I cannot remember which. It was eventually paid to Mr. Howell. I don't remember paying in notes.

Why was the money paid to Howell?

Because those were my instructions.

Who gave you the instructions?

Tatam, of course.

You went to the Supreme Court Registry?

Yes, only on condition that Tang Kee was to be registered as the owner, otherwise there would be no sale.

Mr. Slade—Did you make inquiries as to the state of the business at any time previous to its sale?

Witness—None whatever. I understood from Tatam and Howell that they wanted the business to be sold.

Do you remember Tatam coming back to Hongkong on board the "Gaelic," I think?

I remember him returning to the Colony but I don't remember either the name of the ship he came on or the date of his return.

Tatam saw you in your shop?—Yes.

And asked you for accounts?

He did not.

Do you mean to say that a man who gives you power of attorney and goes away does not ask you for accounts on his return?

Tatam had already had all the particulars he wanted from Howell.

Didn't he ask you in your shop for the accounts?

He did not ask me for the accounts.

Didn't you tell him he was not entitled to have them?

I did not.

Didn't you turn him out of the shop and practically threaten to have him ejected by a policeman?

I told him I would not return to him the power of attorney I held. I hold powers of attorney for several people and I'll never return them on any account.

His Lordship—Why not?

Witness—Not by any chance. They can have the thing cancelled but I'll never return them.

Mr. Slade—Do you remember telling Tatam two months ago that you had lost the power of attorney?

Witness—I could not find it at the time.

Do you remember having a row in the shop with Tatam?—Yes, about the power of attorney.

After you had turned him out of the shop on his return from America, he left the Colony again. Did he subsequently see you again?—I don't recollect.

Tang Kee said he was the sole proprietor of the Hongkong Butchery. Mr. Howell had one share in it. He acquired it in January, 1897, for, he thought, $200. After that time he met Mr. Howell. He paid the money to Watkins. There was some bartering. Eventually they were willing to accept $200. It was a condition that they should go to the Registrar and that the name should be changed before the ultimate settlement. A man named Campbell was in the Butchery. Witness asked Mr. Watkins to get him; his salary was $50. He also agreed to pay $15 for rent for space in Mr. Howell's house to make sausages. Witness did not know who paid Campbell. Well, he paid it to Mr. Howell, who was to pay it over to Campbell, at Campbell's request. He supposed that Howell paid it over. He had paid another sum of $180 also for the Bowrington rent. These sums were entered in his cash-book (produced). At one time he had borrowed from Mr. Howell $500, but it was paid back within two weeks.

Cross-examined by Mr. Slade—Witness said he had only made this book up roughly at the end of last Chinese year. This was the only book he had for last year. He had also had one European customer's book, one general book and general books for European customers. This general book had been carried on for a number of previous years. When an old book got filled it was burned and a new one was started, old debts being taken forward. A new book was not necessarily for one year only.

His Lordship—Is it a general thing for Chinese firms to carry their old unpaid accounts forward into a new book and destroy the old book?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Slade—It is a very common thing?

Mr. Potter—It is a very unusual thing, my lord. I have never heard of it.

His Lordship—I have heard of it.

Mr. Slade (to witness)—Did you pay Mr. Howell commission of any kind at all?

Witness—No.

Has any commission of any kind ever been paid by you to Mr. Howell?—No.

Did you ever make up a balance sheet?—No; it is my own business and why should I make up a balance sheet?

I'll tell you why: because there you employed people in the shop on the same terms as other Chinese—that is to say you gave them a bonus on the profits at the end of the year?—No.

Didn't you pay your people a bonus at the end of the year?—Yes, I gave them a bonus of $20 or $30 every year—what I called "cumsha."

Did you pay them that bonus on the amount of the profits of the shop?—No; not according to the amount of the profits. I gave them a certain bonus.

Your business has been a successful one from the beginning?—Middling.

You made money every year from the very beginning?—Sometimes yes; sometimes no.

Have you made money from the beginning every year?—Some years I lost. When business was slack I lost.

Looking in that book can you point out any payment to Mr. Howell?—No; there is a Received No. 3105—$6.31 Mr. Howell.

Mr. Howell has told us that he was in the habit of giving you cross-cheques?—Yes.

For how long?—I think since 1903.

Did you start these cross-cheque transactions with Mr. Howell as attorney or with Mr. Howell himself?—I cannot say.

Did Mr. Howell ever receive orders for you and send them to your stall?—No.

Don't you remember him passing on orders to you by bringing people?—Never.

The Chief Justice—You bought this business in 1897?—Yes.

Afterwards were you satisfied with your bargain?—No, your lordship, when did I ever say I was satisfied with it?

What induced you to buy it?—Before I took over this business I was in the market doing business myself in the same line. I was informed by Ying Chung that it was a good business and I thought I could make it pay. I was talked over into buying it.

Knowing it was doing a big business you expected it to pay?—Well, I was doing business in a small way and wanted to do it on a bigger scale.

You saw that they had European customers and thought you might make use of his good-will?—Yes.

You say they asked for several hundred dollars at first for the business: how much did they ask?—$400 or $500.

The Court then adjourned for luncheon.

Tang Kee, who was called into the box during the morning, re-entered the witness stand after the tiffin recess.

Mr. Slade—How much did you pay Howell every month?

Witness—Oh, you needn't be so particular. Suffice it to say that I paid him what was due to him and he paid me what was due to me and there's nothing outstanding between us.

Mr. Slade (heatedly)—But can't you see, sir, that the point is how much you paid him? This book, my Lord, has been drawn up during the progress of this action.

Mr. Potter—Oh, Mr. Slade, you really shouldn't say that! Do you suggest that the book has been drawn up for the purposes of this case?

His Lordship—What Mr. Slade means is that something is not forthcoming which might throw light on the issues of this case.

Mr. Potter—The suggestion leads one to believe that the book has been prepared for the purposes of this case.

Mr. A. R. Lowe, Chartered Accountant, was called into the box. He said that he had examined the books of the Hongkong Butchery Company. He had been through the ledger, bank-book, pass-book and other books of the Company. He had made up the profit and loss account and balance sheet for the first four months' trading.

Mr. Potter at this point went with witness through the profit and loss account item by item and found that the sum of $3,419 was due to Howell, made up as follows:—Cash paid in $5,000; less three payments on account of $1,500; goods supplied $81; which left $3,419.

At this stage of the proceedings, Counsel read a statement which was affixed to the accounts by witness to the effect that the accounts fairly disclosed the business of the Hongkong Butchery Company. There was no evidence of bad debts other than small amounts.

(To witness)—That was the conclusion you arrived at after you had inspected the books?

Witness—Yes.

In your opinion, was the loss attributable to the withdrawal of capital by Howell?

No, Howell always paid in more than he took out, except in December, when he took out $500 and paid in $500.

Do you think the business was upset owing to the withdrawal of capital?

His Lordship—This has nothing to do with the question of capital.

Mr. Potter—I meant to ask the question.

His Lordship—It's clear that the balance-sheet doesn't touch the question of capital.

Mr. Potter—I put the question to witness—Do you think the business was upset because of the withdrawal of capital?

Witness—That's not possible, because Howell paid in more than he took out. I've checked the balance sheet and find it correct to a cent. Tatam's account is $1,576.84.

You tell us that you have traced the sums and found them correct to a cent?

The debit account.—Yes.

Correct to 2 cents (Laughter).

I'm much obliged (Laughter). Since we have an expert in the box, we must be correct.

Continuing, witness said that apparently there was money coming in, either in Howell's hands or receivable, which was paid into the bank in June.

YACHTING.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The 12th club races for the handicap and one design classes and the 4th for dinghies were sailed on Saturday 8th inst. In the handicap class seven boats started:—Dione, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher; Iris, Commodore Eyres, R.N.; Ada, Col. Chapman; Kathleen, Lieut. A. P. Wodd, R.E.; Colleen, Hon. Mr. Pollock; Dorothea, Mr. E. A. Irving; Ayesha, Lieut. Rosomon, R.N.

The course was from the Club starting line, Lyemun beacon (starboard), Kowloon rocks (starboard). A good start was made at 2.30 p.m. Dione led from the first. Kathleen outsailed Iris, and kept the second place throughout the race. Dorothea (late Min) showed a little of her old form, and finished 4th, Ayesha 5th, with Colleen and Ada 6th and 7th, but same distance astern. The corrected times of finishing are as follows:—

	Corrected			Mark to date.
Dione	4	36'	0"	65
Kathleen	4	34	55	76
Iris	4	40	56	32
Dorothea	4	43	54	15
Ayesha	4	42	30	48
Colleen	4	50	34	51
Ada	4	52	15	26

As therefore Kathleen and Dione have secured 1st and 2nd prizes for the season's racing, it has been decided not to resail the 6th club race.

In the one design class five boats started, viz:—Halcyon, sailed by Mr. A. B. Rouse; Bonito, sailed by Mr. H. W. Bird; Alannah, sailed by Mr. A. Bane; Ailsa, sailed by Mr. R. Sutherland; Daphne, sailed by Mr. Brown, R.E.

The course was Meyer's west buoy (Starboard), Channel rocks (port), Cust rock buoy (port), Channel rocks (starboard). The start was made at 2.40 p.m. All the boats were close together at the first mark, and when rounding Ailsa and Bonito collided, the former carrying away her bowsprit, which threw her back considerably, and caused her to lose all chance of the race. Halcyon, sailing well, led the whole way and finished with two minutes in hand. The times are:—

	Actual			Marks up to and including 11th Club Race.
Halcyon	4.	15.	10	60
Bonito	4.	17.	10	32-1.2
Alannah	4.	17.	43	21
Daphne	4.	19.	14	14
Ailsa	4.	25.	30	37-1.2

As there is a protest by Ailsa against Bonito, the marks gained in this race cannot be stated until after the matter comes before the yachting committee, but in any case Halcyon takes first prize. She had 9 wins out of 12 races, a fine record, and Ailsa gets second prize.

There was quite good racing in the dinghy class. Five boats started:—Black dinghy, Mr. O. B. Rowe; green dinghy, Mr. Hunter (sailed by Mr. Shields); pink dinghy, Mr. W. B. Marshall; red dinghy, Mr. R. F. Long; light blue, dinghy, Mr. Capt. Arthur (sailed by Mr. Denison).

The course was Meyer's east buoy (Star), Cust rock buoy (starboard), No. 1 Dock buoy (starboard), Meyer's east buoy (starboard), No. 1 Dock buoy (starboard), Meyer's east buoy (port). Light Blue, well handled by the old hand Mr. A. Denison, outsailed all the others, and finished about 5 minutes ahead of the 2nd boat (green). The times are as follows:—

			Marks to date.
Light Blue	4.	1. 10	9
Green	4.	5. 50	12
Black	4.	6. 40	15
Pink	not timed		6
Red	"		3

It was intended to hold a race for yachts steered by ladies on the 17th, but the Committee have decided to postpone it until the 22nd instant.

Mr. Jupp has kindly presented a cup to be sailed for by cruisers, and Hon. Mr. H. Keswick two cups, one for all racing boats belonging to the R.H.K.Y.C. and the C.Y.C., one for cruisers belonging to both clubs.

OPIUM SMUGGLING.

MANY TINS ON CHIYO MARU.

There was an important discovery of opium smuggling in Honolulu last month, when the "Chiyo-maru" left for the States. A former Kobe resident now in Hawaii, in the course of a private letter, says:—"As you know perhaps, the U.S. Customs are particularly watchful against any importation into Honolulu. While the "Chiyo-maru" was putting out of there bound for the coast, the passengers on the hurricane deck noticed a gasolene launch following along astern. Shortly before the big liner began to get up speed, there was quite a commotion on the after part of the ship, and the passengers noticed what looked like a huge ship's mattress thrown over the rail by a number of Japanese seamen. The mattress was evidently buoyed with cord, as it floated. The Captain, being a little suspicious, notified the police authorities at Honolulu by wireless. We learn now that the police captured the mattress, and found it stuffed with 200 tins of opium."

AND SUCH IS CHINA!

THE RECENT AVIATION MEETING IN CANTON.

An eye witness informs us that if proof were needed to show how hopeless and helpless the Chinese authorities seem to be in Canton when coping with large crowds it was forthcoming during the recent aviation meeting.

It is estimated that over fifteen thousand found their way on Thursday to the scene, but very few had the conscience or the courtesy to attempt to pay a cent at the entrance. The huge crowd gathered round, and patiently waited for a free performance. The mass of people were silent and sullen, thousands of soldiers were on the ground, and although the authorities had promised to help control the traffic nothing was done to enable the Aviation Co. to collect revenue from the crowd who filled the enclosure. The bulk of the so-called soldiers were on the ground eagerly watching developments, or in the tea-shops enjoying themselves, utterly oblivious of responsibilities or duties.

So disappointing was all this to the promoters as well as the aviator and it was found imperative that the ground should be enclosed with a big twelve-foot matting pallisade. It was naturally inferred that this would tend to augment the receipts at the gate. But as the next day wore on, it was found that along the whole length of that two miles of rail were Chinese heads. All kinds of devices had been brought into being, in order that they might have a glimpse of the whole field free of charge. Rocks, miniature sandhills, anything and everything was being used as a stand which might serve as a suitable vantage ground. The neighbouring hill was described by our informant as being a hill no longer! There was nothing of it to be seen; it was a mass of human beings. Rudely erected tents had been pitched immediately outside the pallisade. Ancient-looking Chinese, with their many wives, vied with the younger men for a suitable position to view the progress of events all free of charge.

Officials galore walked in with numerous if not imposing retinues, all kinds of unwashed lads swelling the crowd and carrying banners. There were hundreds within the enclosure and hundreds occupied the five-dollar seats, but very few parted with cash. The presence of the police and the soldiers had little or no effect on the huge crowd, and it is fortunate in the estimation of our corespondent that no untoward event occurred to prevent Mr. Van den Born from making most successful flights.

In a city which gives such flagrant examples of non-control, and a city where the body-guards of one of the higher officials displayed the most despicable cowardice in the hour of danger, little can be expected of real progress or efficiency for many years. There may be the outward veneer, but—that is all.

Count Rex, the new German ambassador to Japan, was to leave Taku for Tokio on the 7th.

RUN ON SWATOW AND CANTON BANKS.

SUCCESSFULLY STAVED OFF.

[The "Telegraph" Correspondent.]

Canton, March 10.

As the result of a current rumour, a run has been made on the Tai Ching branch Bank at Swatow by its depositors. Fortunately the bank had enough reserves, and met the demands of its customers promptly. The Bank has since been doing business as usual. The news of the run made on the Tai Ching bank at Swatow spread to Canton some days ago, and widely and rapidly reached the ears of the uneasy depositors.

Had it not been for the timely issue of notifications by the Provincial Treasurer and the Taotai for the Promotion of Industries, and the distribution of home bills by the Canton Banking Investigation Society, assuring the public of the soundness of the Tai Ching Bank, and repudiating the news of its insolvency, scenes similar to that in Swatow might have occurred in Canton.

CHOW DOGS GIVEN TO RESCUER.

A GRATEFUL HONGKONG BOATWOMAN.

The full square rigged merchantman Arrow, which lay in Hongkong harbour for several months, has arrived safe and sound at Baltimore. As it hold the opinion that "if such a trip had been made without adventure navigation is getting a pretty slow occupation for a live man," the "New York Herald" interviewed Captain McIver and asked for his yarns.

He had two to tell, one as to how he pulled a Chinese child out of the water in the harbour on the day they sailed, and the other about how apprentice Hotchkiss a few days later pulled a shark out of the same element, so the stories were somewhat similar.

The shark, however, was eaten by the Japanese crew, while the mother of the child, a local boatwoman, gave two chow dogs to the Captain. Both are alive and doing well.

TRADE IN THE EAST.

The export trade from Northern China is reported to be very slack, mainly, no doubt, because of the plague. The import trade, on the other hand, has become more active. During the severe portion of the winter imports are almost stopped, but now that spring is approaching they have begun again, and no doubt the stocks on hand in the large towns are run down. By the way, it may be interesting to state that Vladivostock is just now doing a fairly good business. The port has suffered very seriously in consequence of the war with Japan.—"The Statist."

NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

[From "N.-C. Daily News."]

POLITICS IN RUSSIA.

London, April 7.—The Russian Council of Empire, by ninety-eight votes to fifty-two, has adopted the interpellation which, while bowing to the will of the Tsar, charged the Government with a breach of the fundamental laws of the Empire by its action in connexion with local government in Poland, and demanded an explanation. This interpellation was the first (of its nature) in the history of the Council of Empire. Speakers who sided with the majority declared that Russia was entering upon a new era in her struggle against reaction.

CHINA AND THE TELEGRAPHS.

Peking, April 7.—The Chinese Telegraphs administration, in view of the intimate working arrangements with the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Companies, has arranged to receive £500,000 advance on the foreign traffic dues of the next eighteen years. Half-yearly adjustments of the principal are to be made, and the advance is to carry interest at five per cent, which the rates at present cover. It is stipulated that the money is only to be utilized for the development of telegraphs and telephones.

SUPREME COURT.

HONGKONG BUTCHERY-CASE.

EUROPEAN ACCOUNTANT'S EVIDENCE.

Before his Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Piggott, at the Supreme Court Wednesday morning, the case was resumed in which John Tatam, runner of the King Edward Hotel, is seeking for the taking of accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Hongkong Butchery Company since 24th September, 1890, and for further or other relief. Mr. M. W. Slade, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, was for the defendant.

Mr. A. R. Lowe, accountant, was recalled. Witness stated that he had done as he was directed by his Lordship yesterday and found that his Lordship was quite wrong. The only profit that was made was in October, $786.57. There was no loss in respect of that month. The losses in November amounted to $148.82. The profit in December was $95.93. The January loss was $612.62. The two losses amounted to $761 and the profit to $882, which left a difference of some $121.

In answer to his Lordship, witness said that in his figures he only took into consideration the nett profits and did not take the working expenses into account. The nett profit for October was $200 and the working expenses $500.

His Lordship—The working expenses for October was only $185!

Witness—That was paid in October.

Proceeding, witness stated that what he did was to apply a portion of the expenses to a separate account.

His Lordship—Either you must take all the accounts one month back or take them as they are printed.

Witness—My figures total up to the exact amount that appears in the balance-sheet.

His Lordship—What seems extraordinary is that the first month showed such a large profit!

Continuing, witness said that the Company may have had to fight competition.

Mr. Slade—In working up your stores accounts, have you attempted to differentiate between purchases of butter and of perishable articles, such as salt meat, butter, and so on?

At this point, witness submitted certain figures in answer to Counsel's question.

His Lordship—What puzzles me is that the stores accounts for December and January are so much heavier than the previous months.

Witness—There were large purchases.

Mr. Slade—What of—meat?

Witness—Practically meat. They would buy a pig now and then and sometimes beef. Practically all meat.

His Lordship—It does seem extraordinary.

Witness at this stage referred to a certain figure, which, he said, was in respect of salt beef.

Mr. Potter—How do you know it is salt beef? Is there anything in the books to show that?

Mr. Slade—We've Tatam's word for it.

Mr. Potter—Mr. Tatam has a great memory to be able to go back 14 years.

Mr. Slade—We've taken Howell's word in respect of many details. (To witness)—Probably there is a large or substantial amount put down for January which is for February. Have you taken the amount of the customers' total indebtedness?

Witness—I've checked the figures and found them correct.

Mr. Slade—The total amount shown on the face of the figures is $3,203?

Witness—It's shown as $3,600.

Mr. Slade—What, collected more than what appears on the ledger?—Yes.

How?—Recoveries.

The receipts do not tally, and that at a time when the Company was not making cash sales.—It may have been due to a serious error.

—Isn't it a serious error? Doesn't it show that customers' purchases were being put somewhere?—Not necessarily.

That's the inference.—The whole amount of the sales has been accounted for by cash receipts. The presumption is that the balances are wrong.

At this point, a question arose as to whether Mr. Slade was entitled to put in certain figures.

Mr. Potter objected.

His Lordship—Do I understand you to say that Mr. Slade cannot take out figures and put them in evidence?

Mr. Potter—That's so, my Lord.

His Lordship—I cannot understand your attitude in this matter. Counsel took out figures himself and put them in, but not as evidence. I now intend to refer the books to the Registrar.

Mr. Potter—An expert accountant has been called into the box and I should have thought he was the proper person who should go into the books.

His Lordship—I cannot see the slightest objection.

Mr. Potter—My Lord, I wish to recall Mr. Tatam owing to certain information I received yesterday. The point is that it has been suggested that Tatam by his industry worked up a substantial business.

His Lordship—I thought Howell had admitted that.

Mr. Potter—Oh no, my Lord. I did not go into it at the time because I did not think it was relevant but it might be relevant now.

Mr. Tatam was recalled. Witness said that in 1908, he was employed by the Dairy Farm Company. He remembered getting a letter from the directors (produced).

Mr. Potter—That letter expressed dissatisfaction at the manner you managed your shop?

His Lordship—What has that got to do with the issue?

Mr. Potter—I want to show that as manager he was not successful. I cannot allow the suggestion to be made that I did not put the letter to Tatam under cross-examination.

His Lordship—If you have other evidence relating to 1901 or 1905, I'm willing to let it go in, but it seems to me that this letter is hopelessly irrelevant. I really cannot allow you to waste the time of the Court.

Mr. Potter—Not relevant in cross-examination?

His Lordship—Hopelessly irrelevant. In fact, I may say that I would be surprised to know anybody would dream of putting in such a thing.

Mr. Potter—Your Lordship does not think I'm justified in putting it in?

His Lordship—It's hopelessly irrelevant.

Counsel proceeded to ask witness a certain question.

His Lordship—You asked me to allow you to call the witness on certain definite grounds. I must ask you to confine yourself to those grounds.

Mr. Potter (To witness)—Wasn't it Howell who inserted advertisements in the papers and drafted letters for you?

Witness—Yes, at my suggestion. We were both present.

Do you suggest that you canvassed for customers yourself?—Yes.

Did you get them?—Sometimes I was successful; sometimes I was not.

About what period was this?—I can't say the date.

Before 1906?—Yes.

That was the most you could do? You had a number of friends and you expected them to deal with you?—I put the matter to them in the same way as I would have done to any other lady or gentleman.

That was all you could do?—That was all you could do under the circumstances.

Mr. Slade—You were steward at one time of Mount Austin Hotel?

Mr. Potter—I don't think that affects the issue.

Mr. Slade—It has been suggested that Tatam lived on Howell's charity. It's nothing of the sort. (To witness)—As steward you were brought into contact with several residents?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspector Fisher was the next witness called. He said in 1895 he was a bailiff in the Supreme Court. On several occasions he assisted Howell with the books. He would not absolutely swear to the months but it was during the first part of the Butchery's existence. He remembered a meeting which was held in Howell's house. At that meeting there were present Howell, Tatam, a Chinese clerk of the Butchery and witness himself, and also another gentleman whom he did not know and who was introduced to him as an American. As far as he would gather, the meeting was called for the purpose of going into the accounts. The impression that had always remained with him was that the business was a losing concern from the beginning.

Mr. Slade—Are you an accountant?

Witness—No.

Are you skilled in accounts?—No.

Can you suggest why your valuable assistance was called by Howell?—I can give no particular reason, except that Howell required assistance.

Your recollection is rather vague?—That's true. Fourteen years is a very, very long time.

If Howell had not spoken to you lately and said so-and-so and so-and-so was there you could not have said it entirely off the reel?—I could.

Although you had no interest in the matter?—Yes.

Did Howell tell you anything about the American?—No, he mentioned the accounts.

I suggest that you were never there at all?—Oh yes, Sir, I was there right enough.

Arthur Hill, Assistant Bailiff at the Supreme Court, said he remembered being present at an interview held in the Registry of the Supreme Court. Tatam came to the window and said to Howell "I want to speak to you privately," and Howell replied: "Whatever you wish to tell me you can say in the other man's hearing." Tatam then said: "We've been good friends for a long time. The accounts you have made up are quite correct. If I draw up a note, will you please sign it?" Howell said: "Mr. Tatam, you have a solicitor and I'll not do it behind his back. Let your solicitor draw up a note and I'll sign it."

Mr. Slade—You're very positive about it?

Witness—I'm very positive about it, Mr. Slade.

You are a brother-in-law of Howell?—Yes, but not at that time.

You had no interest in Howell then?—I had, because I knew all that was going on.

This was in 1904?—Yes. I took notes and looked after the conversation.

I put it to you that it's suggested that Howell asked Tatam to sign it and he offered to pay half the solicitors' costs if he did so.—He never suggested that. He said: "If your solicitor will draw up the document, I'll sign it."

You are quite indignant at Tatam, Mr. Hill, aren't you?—No, I'm not indignant. Howell is honest in business and Tatam knows just as much about the figures as Howell does. Tatam knows more about this business than he has told the Court. I know it for an absolute fact. I'm only telling the truth and I'm not afraid to face anyone.

His Lordship—Very well.

Mr. Slade—It would have been to Tatam's advantage to have had the note drawn up and signed by him?—Yes, because it would have made Tatam statute-barred.

It was never done?—No. Howell should have taken the note from him then and there. That's what I would have done.

Mr. Potter—That's what I would have done.

You were attorney to Howell in 1908?—Yes.

Didn't you have a writ to issue against the Hongkong Butchery and didn't you deliberately delay it in order to give due warning to Howell?—No, I did not. I actually paid money to get some of my friends out of trouble.

The writ about the Butchery was brought to you sealed?—Yes.

In the ordinary course of routine, are the writs brought to you to be sealed?—Sometimes.

The ordinary custom among the Chinese is to obtain a form and then either fill it up or ask for instructions how to fill it up, and then it's sealed by the bailiff prior to being served?—Yes.

Do I understand you to say that in this case the writ was brought to you not sealed?—Yes.

I suggest that you did what you did do as attorney?—No.

You were his attorney at that time?—Yes.

And if Howell is a person with some control on behalf of the Butchery, you would be in a position to secure that a small sum was accepted on account?—I say absolutely no. Mr. Howell to my knowledge—and I had all his papers—never had one cent in the Hongkong Butchery. The only money that came to him every month was $15 and that $15 was paid over to my wife as pocket money.

His Lordship—So that you did not act as attorney?

Witness—No.

Mr. Slade—Can you tell me when Howell removed from 6 Queen's Road to Morrison Hill?

Witness—I think about 1888 or 1889. I was not in the Colony then.

J. Leonard, bailiff in the Court, examined by Mr. Potter, said he remembered that about two years ago the Butchery had a claim against a man named Bowen. Tang Kee, the proprietor, came down to issue a writ. Witness told Tang Kee that he knew Bowen and would speak to him about it. He did so and Bowen paid him the writ. Some time afterwards, he believed, a writ was going to be issued by the Butchery against Bowen.

What do you remember about the incident of O'Hallaran; did he pay some money over to Mr. Hill?—Yes.

You had spoken to him in the first instance?—Yes.

Who asked you to speak to Mr. Hill?—He spoke to me about it. He told me to tell O'Hallaran there was a bill owing and that he had better pay it or there would be a bill issued.

Did O'Hallaran pay him the money and a chit to you?—Yes.

What was the substance of that chit?—That I need not trouble any more, as he had paid that bill.

The Court adjourned at one o'clock.

After tiffin, A. R. Lowe, accountant, was recalled.

His Lordship—What I do not understand in the accounts is this, that the ledger accounts which were carefully gone through, show there is $3200 outstanding at the end of Jan., but you have here amounts owing by customers collected in February, March and May to the amount of $600.

Witness—I took it from the cash book, and this account is for more than his ledger account shows.

His Lordship—How would you account for these amounts?

Witness—Unless I took them myself I could not account for them.

His Lordship—The Registrar has been at work and verified them.

Mr. Slade—The additions are the Registrar's. He guaranteed them.

His Lordship—The Registrar has been through them and within $50 or $60 they are correct.

Mr. Slade (to witness)—You seem to have taken out of the cash book amounts owing by customers and put them into this account.

Witness—The amount shown has been paid into the bank and it accounts for more than he had to account for.

His Lordship—I am not quite sure of this: were the meat sales cash sales?

Mr. Slade—These were cash sales.

Witness—It may be that people had several bills for small amounts and paid them altogether later on.

From what bills should the missing $1,400 be met out of?—I cannot say.

Mr. Slade—But the difficulty is this: assuming that the ledger does not show the whole of the amounts afterwards collected, there must have been some other record kept of certain customers' bills not inserted in this ledger, which would account for a very great deal of the deficiency which your Lordship pointed out, that although their account of meat purchases rose very largely in January the amount they received from the very much increased sales of meat is not more.

His Lordship—They must have left it out.

Witness—I cannot explain that where the books are 16 years old.

Mr. Slade—But if they were not kept properly?

Witness—But they are destroyed.

But assuming that the books are forthcoming and they showed that they were not kept properly?—Not after 16 years, unless you had the man who kept them. He could explain anything in question. It is unfair to ask me to explain it. No business man could.

But if you have shown the amounts in the ledger and have not compared them with the amounts shown in the cash book, how can you say that these books have been regularly kept?—That was six months afterwards.

Mr. Slade—You have shown in this certificate the amounts received from customers in February, March, April and May, and you have not checked the ledger to see whether or not the ledger amounts correspond with amounts subsequently collected?

Witness—I had figures given to me to show that the money had been accounted for.

But you have certified that the books were well and regularly kept without finding out whether the balance shown you as paid from customers on the face of the ledger at the end of January corresponded with the amounts shown in the cash books as having been collected for that period?—But I showed more.

The inference is that these books were not kept well and regularly?—You cannot expect a business of this kind to go into book-keeping so very elaborately. Many firms of big standing do not keep elaborate books.

His Lordship—I think what Mr. Lowe means is that he finds that the ledger accounts were superfluous without going to the end to see whether the results corresponded.

Witness—No; it was not necessary.

Mr. Slade—We are now talking about the figures for this period and comparing the ledger book figures with the cash book.

His Lordship—What he intends is to go to the end of 1906 only.

Mr. Slade—But he swears for the cash book in his certificate.

His Lordship—There is a difference, I admit.

Mr. Slade—The system may have been good, but the way in which it was carried out was deficient whether by accident or design.

His Lordship—It is important whether the last figure covers other minor variations.

Mr. Slade—But this is not a minor variation, for the amounts of the customers' accounts to that extent have not been inserted in the ledger, and at the same time we find that the amount received from customers is very much smaller than one would anticipate from the amount of meat bought; and the inference is overwhelming that there are a great many other accounts of customers not inserted in the ledger and not accounted for.

His Lordship—This account shows that there was more money collected from customers and therefore that if as a fact there were other ledger accounts the inference is that he was satisfied.

Mr. Slade—I think, your Lordship, the inference is that there was a great many other customers' accounts kept in some other books, the proceeds of which never came into the account at all.

Mr. Potter—It is suggested that this sum of $3,364 was outstanding in January, 1896.

His Lordship—They are figures which have been verified.

Mr. Potter—It's necessary to verify them still further.

Witness—From the ledger?

His Lordship—The ledger balance.

Mr. Potter—What did Mr. Slade mean?

Witness—That he took out all accounts which had not been paid.

You showed the sum of $3,000?—Yes.

Mr. Potter—The suggestion is that there are other books which have not been disclosed. Is that your suggestion, Mr. Slade?

Mr. Slade—Yes, otherwise the bills would not have been sent to customers.

Witness was at this stage taken through the books in detail.

Mr. Slade—I'm leaving on Friday.

Mr. Potter—I'm sorry.

Mr. Slade—If my friend goes on at this rate, he'll have witnesses in the box for another month.

Mr. Potter—I can't help it. We must get at the truth.

His Lordship—The fact has been patent throughout this case.

Mr. Slade—It has not been patent to me. The case has assumed greater importance since yesterday and it must be finished by to-morrow. I can't sit here and check the accounts till 8 o'clock.

Mr. Potter—The case will be finished to-morrow. There's nothing more except my address and that of my friend.

His Lordship—And the facts to be considered and the delivery of judgment. If you so wish, the accounts can be checked by Registrar, who will sit till 8 o'clock or even midnight.

Mr. Potter—I don't wish that.

His Lordship—The question has been patent throughout this case and it has now been emphasized by Mr. Lowe in the box when he speaks to a difference of $400. I've yielded a great deal already and I'm not disposed to yield any further.

Mr. Potter—I'm indebted to your Lordship for yielding me these concessions but so far I've not asked for anything in the shape of accounts. We've gone to the expense of engaging an expert and I don't think we've delayed the case for one moment.

His Lordsip—I'm sorry, but I can't sit here and check the account.

Mr. Potter—My Lord, I regard it in the interests of justice to go into the figures. It'll only take a couple of hours. I merely want the result. Once the matter is investigated, Mr. Lowe can state the result in two minutes. At all events, your Lordship is not going to sit after 4 o'clock. I ask for an hour's adjournment.

His Lordship—I cannot do that. You can address me now and the result can come to-morrow morning.

Mr. Potter—It makes no difference to me.

His Lordship—That's it.

MR. POTTER'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Potter in opening his address said that the case naturally divided itself into two parts—firstly as to what happened before Tatam left the Colony and secondly, as to what happened after he left the Colony. He proposed to take the statement of claim and all the allegations of plaintiff and divide them into two compartments. The first allegation was that the business of the Hongkong Butchery was under the entire control of Howell. That statement had been disproved absolutely, because it was now admitted by the plaintiff that when the Butchery was run on old lines, the books were kept under his own eyes and he could see them at any moment. That was not all. They now knew that Tatam had kept a somewhat elaborate account which commenced in January, 1896, and went on more or less accurately up to January, 1897. That was the only account necessary to be kept by plaintiff and Howell up to the time that Yuen Chung took over the business. So far from establishing his allegations, it was now admitted by the plaintiff that the accounts were not kept by Howell and that he himself kept the most important accounts from January, 1896. The tables, in fact, were turned on himself. The next allegation as regarded the first period was that Howell converted to his own use large sums of money. He (Mr. Potter) did not know whether his friend was going to say that even one penny of the money was converted to his own use by Howell. The allegation had now dwindled down to this—that there were certain drawings by Howell and that they could not understand the items. Mr. Slade was apparently satisfied *on the point in the first instance and* nothing more had been heard of it since. The allegations of fraud had miserably failed and, he ventured to say, so had every other allegation made throughout that case. The third allegation of fraud was falsely and fraudulently representing that the business of the Butchery was in a bad way, and that plaintiff owed him money; further, that Howell fraudulently persuaded plaintiff to leave the Colony. That was a most misleading statement of facts, to say nothing more, because it had not apparently been suggested recently, at least, that Howell had made any representation whatsoever regarding the state of the business at the time alleged by the plaintiff.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

In making a renewed appeal for funds for the new Hongkong University scheme, the "Pall Mall Gazette" refers to the bands of heroic nurses and doctors who have gone out from Europe to help fight the plague in Manchuria, and makes special mention of the young Chinese Dr. Gnoh Liang Tuck, who at Harbin has done splendid work particularly gratifying to Englishmen. "Dr. Gnoh Liang Tuck had a brilliant medical course a few years ago at Cambridge, and his countrymen may thank Sir Cecil Smith, late Governor of the Straits Settlements, for founding the scholarship which gave him his initial chance. It is foundation work like this which the new English College at Hongkong is so well calculated to systematise and to extend. For patriotic as well as humanitarian reasons, therefore, we think the appeal we made on behalf of the scheme six months ago will bear timely repetition now."

THE PARTITION OF CHINA.

HIGH OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF TREACHERY.

Great indignation is being expressed amongst the native papers against the high officials who were responsible for the Russo-Chinese agreement regarding the frontier question; and this is heightened by the rumours concerning the imminent partition of China. One of the leading newspapers calls public attention to the fact that Prince Ching and His Excellency Na Tung, two of the Grand Councillors, recently gave a series of receptions and banquets in celebration of the "successful settlement" of the dispute with Russia. Why, asks the journal, do they call it successful when China has had to grant concessions and forego treaty rights? In thus acting, these officials have sold their country.

It was the duty of the Grand Councillors to punish the officials who were responsible for the Russo-Chinese agreement but they pay no heed. If this state of corruption was allowed to continue, the nation could never progress.

Recent telegrams had been received from the Chinese Ministers at London and Paris stating that a conference of the Powers had been held at Paris to consider and discuss the partition of China. According to these two Ministers, the whole of China would be divided up with the exception of Honan and Shansi.

In the opinion of the native press the partition of China is bound to happen sooner or later. That it is not brought into immediate execution is not because the conference of Powers was afraid of the Chinese Government but of the Chinese people.

The senators of the National Assembly had repeatedly demanded the convention of a special meeting to consider the frontier disputes and to discuss the critical situation of China at the present moment. These demands have all been ignored by the Grand Councillors. Everything seems to be gloomy and the immediate future of the country is believed to hold out no very hopeful prospects.

TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

DIVIDEND IN SIGHT NEXT TERM.

At the recently held annual general meeting of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha Mr. Okawa, Vice-President explained that if the present continue the Company will be able to declare a dividend on both old and new shares next term.

With regard to the liabilities of the Company all the debt of the Company bearing a high rate of interest had been redeemed, and at present the total debt outstanding was about Y9,000,000 including debentures, bills etc., which represented a decrease of Y000,000 as compared with that of the previous term.

He assured the shareholders that a call on the new shares would not be made at present. The following accounts were adopted:—

	Y
Net profit	821,331.00
Loss brought from previous term	808,541.63
Balance carried to next A/c	12,789.37

SUPREME COURT.

HONGKONG BUTCHERY CASE.

EUROPEAN ACCOUNTANT'S EVIDENCE.

Before his Lordship the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Piggott, at the Supreme Court Thursday morning, the case was resumed in which John Tatam, runner of the King Edward Hotel, is seeking for the taking of accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Hongkong Butchery Company since 24th September, 1896, and for further or other relief. Mr. M. W. Slade, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, was for the defendant.

Continuing his address after we had gone to press Wednesday, Mr. Potter said that the plaintiff had apparently so instructed his Counsel that they had mixed up what took place in January, 1896 and January, 1897. The statements were wholly misleading. The whole thing was a mixture of facts and dates. What were the true facts of the case? He would call them admitted facts. The business of the Hongkong Butchery Company was started in October, 1895, and Howell advanced some $1,500 by way of capital. In December, a meeting was held in Howell's house. The accounts were examined on several occasions and, in Howell's opinion, the business was not doing well. Howell told plaintiff that he would not continue to finance the business. Whether there was profit or loss, Howell was entitled to have acted as he did. Plaintiff admitted that. They found Tatam himself arranging with Yuen Ching. Up to that time there was no room for fraudulent representations for Howell. He had a lot at stake. He had capital at stake and there was no reason for making fraudulent representations and, in fact, it was not now suggested that in December, 1895, or January, 1896, he had made fraudulent representations. There they had a gentleman who professed a vast amount of ignorance entering into most important financial arrangements with Yuen Ching. He did not think his Lordship would accept his statement of total ignorance. Plaintiff was careful to make a very good bargain with the compradore. So far, where were the frauds and misrepresentations? They did not exist. The plaintiff's principal allegation was that there had been no sale of the business. That was the position he had been forced into, because if there had been a sale, it did not matter a jot whether Howell was the owner of a quarter, half or three-fourths of the business. As a matter of fact, Howell did not own one cent in the business.

The Chief Justice said that he noticed that the large amount was in January.

Mr. Slade: It turns out on the face of the ledger that the small account was in December and the large account was in January.

Mr. Lowe on being recalled said he understood that Mr. Slade took out the figures.

Mr. Slade—I jotted the figures down and they were added up by an accountant.

Witness:—The only correct thing about them is the adding up.

I want to understand where the errors come in. Will you please answer my question plainly without comment? — In the books. That's all that interests me.

There is a balance in the books for January 31st; why did you not take them out?—I cannot explain.

I am not asking you to explain what I did but what you did. You took out all the accounts which were outstanding on the face of the books at the end of January? —Yes.

And you find in those figures there are a number of omissions? —Certainly.

What is the total upon the face of the ledger?—$3508.53! There is a difference of $110. Items which I can give you here are not in the ledger,—sundry small items in February and March. They are only small and amount, to $110, and I can give you what I should say might be a reasonable explanation or assumption.

Let is see what the items are. They are really small figures. Apparently the largest is $18.

Your corrections! I should like to know the number of alterations. You said the only thing correct about them was the addition. I should like to know the number of alterations you made as a matter of curiosity.

Witness, (after counting)—Seventy-two corrections.

Mr. Slade—Some of those corrections are merely corrections of folio numbers. However it does not matter. It is immaterial.

Mr. Potter then resumed his closing speech. Yesterday, he said he had got to the allegations that there was sale and that Mr. Howell was a part owner of the Hongkong Butchery Company. Before going into that, there was one point which he would like to call to his Lordship's attention. He would find it in the cash book. It was significant that the commission paid by Yuen Ching gradually dwindled toward the time when he gave up the business. There was a falling off, and that must mean a proportional falling off of the gross accounts received by Yuen Ching. And he (counsel) thought a fair inference from that was that Yuen Ching did not find it was a very fair arrangement for him to give 5 per cent upon the gross receipts. He then came to the question of the alleged fraudulent sale and the allegation that Howell was a large owner or sole owner of the Hongkong Butchery Company. What was the evidence which the plaintiff had called before them to prove those allegations? First of all there were Campbell's payments. Well, they had had explanations, explanations given by Campbell, Howell, and Tang Kee. He supposed the suggestion to be made by his friend was that, because Howell paid Campbell, he was a shareholder in the Hongkong Butchery Co. It was a payment made openly by cheque, so that it could be traced. It would have been very easy to make the payment by cash and that could never have been traced. The next point suggested by the plaintiff was that Howell cashed a cheque for Tang Kee. Howell says "I did" and then makes a mistake himself saying "Yes, I cashed cheques from the very beginning." Now they found he had made a mistake, for the first time he cashed a cheque for Tang Kee was in 1903.

Counsel was here corrected and then said, "There was one in 1900 and then 1903." One was cashed by Howell himself and the others by his attorney. Whilst he was on that point, he did not know whether his friend intended to make a point of it. What arguments his friend intended to found on this he could not conceive. He supposed he intended to say that Howell must be a partner or else those payments would not have been made. If that were to be sufficient evidence of a partnership it would be easy to prove a partnership, and it would also be easy for any man to come to that court and prove he was a partner if he wanted to do so. Advertisements had been put to Howell showing that the "China" arrived on such and such a date and butter was advertised as being sold. When Tang Kee was in the box his friend did not ask him one question with regard to the butter incident. He did not ask for any explanation as to the letter admittedly written by Howell in 1908. The last little bit of evidence was that Howell had signed a chit for the Hongkong Ice Company. They knew a chit was signed last March when Howell knew that the man was claiming that he, Howell, was the sole owner or largest owner in the Hongkong Butchery Co. Furthermore Howell was cashing cheques for Tang Kee up to the present moment; not only in the face of the present action, but in face of the proceedings taken against Howell by the man, when he was suspended by the government. Could it be suggested that, because Howell cashed cheques up to the present moment, and because he signed a chit for the Ice Co., he was a partner. They knew that he was suspended because Tatam had said he was a member of the Hongkong Butchery Company, and they knew that after investigation he was re-instated. The cheques were not cashed and the chits were not signed; because Howell was a partner. Even now Howell cashed cheques and if that were to be taken as proof that he was concerned in the firm, it would mean Howell was lying in the face of the government, and saying "I don't care what you say I am going to be a partner in the company." According to his friend, Howell was connected with the business and the evidence which he put forward in support of that was the cashing of cheques for Tang Kee and the signing of a chit for the Ice Company. As to the ownership they had the evidence of Watkins, Howell and Tang Kee, and his friend wanted his Lordship to find that these three men had gone into the box and deliberately perjured themselves. Watkins said there was a sale and he carried it out. Tang Kee paid the money to him and he gave Howell a cheque. That cheque had been paid into the bank. So his friend wished him to find that Watkins had perjured himself and it would follow that both Howell and Tang Kee had committed perjury. His Lordship was asked to find that although Tatam had not been able to give any evidence to support that allegation, and the only evidence he had in support was the cashing of cheques, the payment to Campbell and the letter to Johnson. Take, the cross-examination of Tang Kee. They called him the owner of the business, and he said "I am the sole owner." He asked him "Has Howell any concern with the business" and he replied "No. None whatever." In cross-examination the question put was this "Have you ever paid Howell a commission"? and Tang Kee denied that he had. That suggestion was not made to Howell. That was the furthest his friend would go, when he had the proprietor of the Hongkong Butchery Co. in the box. Tang Kee had produced his book and he, counsel, thought his Lordship was satisfied that it was a book which was well and properly kept, although his friend suggested that it had been prepared for the purposes of that action. That was a suggestion without one particle of evidence to support it. It was not suggested to Howell that he was in conspiracy with Tang Kee to defraud the man, and for the purpose of assisting him in the conspiracy he and Tang Kee had prepared the book. It would be idle to suggest that Tang Kee made such a book in 1908, 1909 or 1910 without having been approached by the defendant. So much for the allegation of the fraudulent sale of the business, which was disproved by three witnesses that Howell was a part owner of the Hongkong Butchery Company. He submitted that they could not have a more complete failure of of any allegation.

His Lordship—There's one important allegation I would like you to deal with, regarding an entry of $200 made in the account book as being paid in December.

Mr. Potter—Oh yes, I'll deal with the point shortly.

His Lordship—Oh, no, not shortly. I would like you to deal with it fully.

Mr. Potter—I did not think the point was so important. Barker put down the sale of butter in December which really should have been in January.

His Lordship—The important point is that Barker made up the accounts from vouchers.

Mr. Potter—There has been no suggestion made that prior to the sale of the business in January that Howell had conspired with Tang Kee or any other person for such sale.

His Lordship—The suggestion has been hung on all along.

Mr. Potter—It should have been more than hung on. It should have been put to Howell specifically.

At this point, a certain document was produced in Court.

Mr. Slade—That hasn't been put in evidence. I never had the opportunity of seeing it before. The defendant I remember said: "I think I've a duplicate account in my safe." It was never produced in evidence.

Mr. Potter—It was. Your Lordship saw it.

His Lordship—I remember seeing it but it's not marked.

Mr. Slade—I can't understand how it got to be there without my seeing it. You are not at liberty, Mr. Potter, to put in anything in evidence which I've not had an opportunity of seeing.

His Lordship—I don't quite understand how this document has come to be here.

Mr. Potter—Unless it was handed to your Lordship and got mixed up with the papers.

Continuing, Counsel said there was an item for butter sold in Jan. which appeared in Barker's account, as butter sold in December. He did not know what the suggestion was as an outcome of Barker's entry of the $200.

His Lordship—The suggestion is that the sale of the business never took place.

Mr. Potter—That suggestion was never advanced during the whole progress of this action.

Proceeding, Mr. Potter said that it had not been suggested to Tang Kee that there was no sale. Why was the question not put to Tang Kee if, as was suggested, there had been no sale? Why was the question not put to Tang Kee if, as Mr. Slade suggested, Tang Kee was not telling the truth? There was overwhelming evidence to disprove all the allegations and every suggestion that had been made by Mr. Slade had been completely answered. The truth of a plaintiff's case could be well tested by his statement of claim, and where it was patent that the statement of claim was untrue, then the case failed. It was alleged by the plaintiff that Howell had handed to him three accounts, which to his knowledge were false and fraudulent. They now know that the accounts which had been delivered to Tatam in January, 1897, were nothing more than a slip of paper, on which appeared certain drawings made by Howell. No suggestion was now advanced that these accounts were false and fraudulent, nor could there be. Fortunately, they had been able to secure the services of Mr. Lowe, who was of the opinion that the accounts, so far from being incorrect, were quite correct and the only thing which was wrong about them was that an item of $200 had been put on the wrong side and that instead of $1,400, the plaintiff owed Howell $1,600. The accounts had been tested by an expert and had not been found wanting. The expert dared not challenge the accounts. After all, that was the foundation of plaintiff's case, for he claimed that he was entitled to have the accounts. Howell when in the box could not explain the accounts, as he was not an expert accountant, just as any other ordinary person was not an expert accountant. All he knew was that he had paid every cent he had received into the bank. The accounts could not be explained till Mr. Lowe went into the box and then they were explained fully. There were other minor points which had not arisen on the pleadings but had arisen in the course of that action of the power of attorney. The power of the attorney in that case was given for the purpose of winding up the business. If Watkins had exceeded the powers given, plaintiff's remedy lay in the bringing of an action against Watkins. It was certainly not a question which could be raised in that action, which was a claim for accounts and contained suggestions that there had been no sale. For the sake of argument, he would assume that Watkins had in fact exceeded the powers given him. Even then, the plaintiff was not entitled to bring an action against the wretched man who bought the business; he might be entitled to bring an action against Watkins, in which case they would be able to meet it. None knew better than Tatam himself that he could not hope for success in an action of that kind. Counsel touched upon the question of undervalue. All the customers of the Butchery had been lost at the time of the sale of the business, so that it was clear that Tang Kee had to obtain them all over again.

His Lordship—But Tang Kee thought it worth his while!

Mr. Potter—So does every man who takes over a new concern. A person must be convinced that a thing is worth his while before making a purchase. But there's another point. Who would lose by an undervalue but Howell? The discrepancies which had been are no discrepancies.

Continuing, Counsel said that Mr. Lowe had pointed out that it was unreasonable to ask a man to inspect his own books after a lapse of fourteen years. If there was anybody who could explain the accounts, it was Tatam. It was significant that when Tatam was in the box, he was never asked anything regarding the accounts. His friend seemed to take his (Tatam's) word for every statement he made. It was only when Tatam was cross-examined by him (Mr. Potter) that it came out that Tatam himself kept the most important accounts. The only conclusion he could arrive at was that Mr. Slade did not know anything about it. Tatam has carefully concealed it from him. As to Howell's offering to pay half Tatam's lawyers' fees at that time the action of 1904 had not commenced and what the lawyers' fees were for he failed to see. So that Hill's story was, after all, true, although there would be no reason to suppose that because he was a brother-in-law of plaintiff, he would come forward and relate a false story. He submitted that each and every allegation made by the plaintiff in that case had failed utterly. Plaintiff could not ask for accounts, because he had them. The accounts were shown to be true and further showed that plaintiff was heavily indebted to Howell. There was very good reason to suppose that Howell had never been connected with the present Butchery Company. Each and every allegation of fraud had been disproved utterly.

MR. SLADE'S ADDRESS.

Mr Slade in stating the case for the plaintiff said that they had listened to Mr. Potter's lengthy address, in which his friend attempted to throw cold water on what he (Mr. Potter) would no doubt be pleased to term fallacious facts by a method of ingenious reasoning. Tatam knew nothing of his own knowledge from the time he left the Colony in Jan., 1897, to the time he returned to the Colony two years later. He necessarily had to glean whatever facts he could from his friends. The sole question to be decided was whether Howell had divested himself of the business. If, after the departure of Tatam, Howell had not entirely divested himself of the business, but had retained for himself secretly any interest in the present butchery as it had been carried on and was being carried on, then the defendant was liable in that case. What was Howell's position in 1897 and now? He was a Government servant and was prohibited under the rules of service from engaging in a business. They knew that he stated in the box that he was trying to keep quiet in the matter. Although a good many people in the Colony knew it, he did not wish the matter to become known more and, apart from his position as a Government servant and his relationship with Tatam he continued to keep quiet. If, as they suggested, and, in fact, were going to prove, Howell had got rid of the business on terms which left plaintiff in the cold and Howell in the warm, then that was another great reason for secrecy. It was therefore very difficult to prove defendant's connection with the business. It could only be done by taking advantage of such errors of judgment which Howell might have displayed from 1897 onwards—errors of judgment which were automatically recorded, so to speak, and which could be produced. What were the definite facts of the case? They knew about the appointment of a new manager. If the inferrence was correct that Howell and Tang Kee were in conspiracy together, not much credence should be attached to Tang Kee's evidence. The effect of an explanation diminished when a whole series of facts had to be explained away. The evidence for the defence from the eminently unsatisfactory nature of it, showed that the defendant was trying to conceal his true connection with Tang Kee. It was the habit of the witness in question to destroy all the cash books. His Lordship had had considerable experience of Chinese methods in that Court for a number of years and his Lordship must be well aware that if Chinese had nothing to conceal, they preserved their cash books for a vast number of years. The cash books could not be added to in respect of items, while the ledger was capable of being altered. They treasured the cash book; in fact, they attached almost a superstitious reverence to them. One other item to which he wished to refer was the thoroughly unsatisfactory nature of Howell's answer to the question as to whether he had ever accepted orders on behalf of the Butchery. When the question was put to him he answered, "I may have done; I do not know." This was an item of evidence which went a long way to support their position that Howell was closely connected in some way with the Butchery Company and that he had not divested himself in January, 1897, of the whole of his interests in the Butchery but had retained an interest in it down to the present day. In conclusion, he went into the details of the accounts, which he contended, had been whitewashed by the defendant's expert witness, Mr. Lowe.

The Judgment.

His Lordship in giving judgment remarked that the case had been fought out with considerable rancour on both sides, and he was not surprised at it seeing the serious allegations that had been made against a public administrator. His own attitude towards the case was that he had insisted upon every point being thoroughly elucidated. There were many things which required explanations such as the matters referring to the cheques, and he must say that Howell's explanations had not been altogether satisfactory. He did not think that, if Tatam had had a legal advisor, the sale would have gone as it did. He thought that Howell was to blame both in his own interest and in Tatam's. The evidence was not sufficiently strong for him to say there had been a deliberate fraud upon Tatam. If the action were brought, those allegations had to be made and the question was whether he could find they had been proved. No; he could not. It was the most serious charge that could be brought against a man. However diffident he might feel with regard to some of the items, and concerning some of the explanations which were not altogether satisfactory, yet he was bound to hold that the charge of fraud had not been made out. Therefore, judgment must be for the defendant with costs. But he thought a great deal of the case and the length of the examination which had been necessary, had been brought about by the more than injudicious acts of the defendant. They did not come under the rule of misconduct, but a great deal of trouble had come from them. He would therefore make an equitable order that the defendant should pay to the plaintiff the cost of three days of the trial.

Mr. Potter: I take it they will be set off.

His Lordship: Certainly.

HONGKONG DAY BY DAY.

H.M.S. Kinsha and Woodlark left Shanghai on the 7th inst.

Business is reported to be very quiet in Macao. There are a few visitors still there.

A Fong sends us a photo of the successful flight of Mr. Van den Born at Canton on the 6th.

Young Ki Chung, shroff of the Hongkong Club, absconded about ten days ago with about $1000.

The Crown Colonies will be represented at the Coronation by six governors or ex-governors representing six different groups.

Lieutenant H. A. Thewles, "The Buffs," has been posted to the 2nd Battalion, Hongkong, on restoration to the establishment.

Mr. A. G. Lee, acting second class draughtsman at Devonport Dockyard, has been appointed established second class draughtsman at Hongkong.

The s.s. Mongolia, due on 21st inst., brings thirty members of the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. They intend to study trade conditions in the Far East.

The total output of the C. E. & M. Company's three mines for the week ending March 25 amounted to 28072.48 tons and the sales during the period to 30175.57 tons.

We are informed that subject to audit the Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., will pay a dividend of 12 per cent and a bonus of 1 per cent, for the year ending 28th February, 1911.

The annual dinner of the East Asiatic Society took place on 11th ult. at Homburg. Prince Henry, the brother of the Kaiser, was present, as well as high officials and officers who have been in the Far East.

At the annual meeting of the Hongkong Tennis Club last night Dr. Forsyth was re-elected president, and Mr. A. O. Brown, vice-president for the ensuing year. Mr. J. R. Wood was elected vice-president.

Major Gilbert Drage, R.A.L.I., has been ordered to embark for passage to the Minotaur.

Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., has been promoted to Admiral.

Mr. Peyton-Griffin, of Southend-on-Sea, arrived in the Colony Wednesday from Home to join the staff of the "Hongkong Telegraph".

Thousands of Chinese visited the graves of their ancestors on Sunday, particularly in the neighbourhood of Mount Davies. The Pokfulam Road was crowded for many hours.

Lieut. Henry Reilly, of the U.S. Army, has arrived here on his way to the States. He has been stationed in Manila for many years, and has been visiting Borneo, Siam, and Indo-China.

Captain A. S. Cresswell, "The Buffs," has been detailed for a tour of duty with the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion, Canterbury, in relief of Captain P. S. Harland, who has exchanged to the 2nd Battalion, Hongkong. Captain Cresswell joins at once from the 1st Battalion at Dublin.

The Admiralty has approved of a week's additional leave being granted to the half crews of the armed shallow-draught steamers Woodcock, Woodlark, and Widgeon, who are returning home from the Far East in the cruiser Crescent on completing two years' service on the China Station.

The cruiser Kent, China Squadron, is absent from the flag on a cruise through the islands of the Pacific. She was recently at Honolulu "showing the flag" at a port over which the Union Jack should have been flying had it not been for the Little England policy of successive Gladstonian administration.

"Is London," muses the "Revista" (Rome), "a beautiful city, or the contrary!" Holding your breath, you almost fear to read further. Having got over your panic you find in the next paragraph, "It all depends upon the visitor's standpoint and his notion of the beautiful." One thing about the "Revista" is its brilliant inability to tie itself down.

We have received from the Chamber of Commerce a copy of the letter which has already appeared in our morning contemporaries on the subject of the need for adequate supervision of sampans and launches owned or hired by boarding house keepers with a view to minimising the obstruction they cause to steamers outside the harbour. The matter is one that certainly needs the attention of the authorities.

His Lordship the Chief Justice delivered his decision at the Supreme Court Thursday morning in the Bankruptcy action which was brought by Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Official Receiver, in which he sought for a certain payment which was made by a Chinese creditor to Messrs. Melchers and Co. to be set aside on the ground of fraudulent preference. His Lordship held that there was no fraudulent preference and dismissed the motion. Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon appeared for Messrs. Melchers and Co., and Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist were for the Official Receiver.

A very pleasant evening was spent at Kowloon Dock on Thursday evening, when the bachelors were the hosts of the married members of the staff and their friends. A distinct feature of the evening was the orchestra which was in attendance, composed of members of the Dock staff, including Messrs. Grey, W. Brown, Taylor, Owen, Silas, and Soutar. Mr. David Gow acted as M.C., while Mrs. Taylor was in charge of the refreshments. Mr. R. M. Dyer, during the evening, submitted the toast of the bachelors in a very happy speech, and promised to present a silver cup for competition at tennis, gents singles. Mr. W. Davidson responded, thanking Mr. Dyer for his kindly interest and generosity. The health of the orchestra was submitted by Mr. John Lambert, (Lloyd's Surveyor) and acknowledged by Mr. Silas.

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